



Fländergucke im. Sculp

THE
TRAGEDY
OF
Z A R A.

As it is Acted at the
THEATRE-ROYAL,
IN DRURY-LANE.

By His MAJESTY's Servants.

By AARON HILL, *Esq;*

The SECOND EDITION.

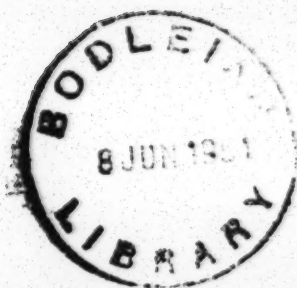
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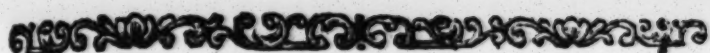
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Est. from H. L. Ford





To His ROYAL HIGHNESS the
P R I N C E.

S I R,

*W*Riters, who mean no *Int'rest*, but their *Arts* ;
Of *undepending* Minds, and *stedfast* Hearts,
Disclaiming *Hopes*, will empty *Forms* neglect ;
Nor need **PERMISSION** — to address *Respect*.

Frank, as the manly Faith of *antient* Time,
Let *Truth*, for once, approach the *Great*, in *Rhime* !
Nor publick Benefit, misguided, *stray*,
Because a *Private Wisher* points its Way.

If wond'ring, *here*, your Greatness condescends
To ask, *What's HE*, who, thus uncall'd, attends ?
Smile, at a *Suitor*, who, in Courts, untrac'd,
Pleas'd, if o'erlook'd, thus, owns his humble Taste. —

Vow'd an *Unenvier*, of the busy *Great* ;
Too plain for *Flatt'ry*, and, too calm for *Hate* :
Hid to be *Happy* ; who surveys, unknown,
The pow'rless *Cottage*, and the peaceless *Throne*,
A silent *Subject* to His own *Controul* :
Of active *Passions*, but, unyielding *Soul* ;

To His Royal Highness the PRINCE.

*Engross'd by NO Pursuits, amus'd, by All;
But, deaf, as Adders, to Ambition's Call:
Too Free, for Pow'r, (or Prejudice) to WIN,
And, safely, lodging Liberty, WITHIN.*

*Pardon, Great Prince! th' unfashionable Strain,
That shuns to Dedicate; nor seeks to gain:
That, (self-resigning) knows no narrow View;
And, but for Publick Blessings, courts, ev'n YOU!*

*Late, a bold Tracer of your measur'd Mind,
(While, by the mournful SCENE, to Grief inclin'd)
I saw your Eloquence of Eyes confess
Soft Sense of BELVIDERA's deep Distress,
Prophetic, thence, fore-deem'd the rising Years;
And hail'd a HAPPY NATION, in YOUR Tears!*

*Oh!—nobly, touch'd!—th' inspiring Pleasure chuse,
Snatch, from the sable Wave, the sinking MUSE!
Charming, be charm'd! the Stage's Anguish heal:
And teach a languid People how to feel.*

*Then her full Soul, shall TRAGIC Pow'r impart,
And teach Three Kingdoms in their Prince's Heart!
Lightness, disclaim'd, shall blush itself away:
And reas'ning SENSE resume forgotten Sway.
Love, Courage, Loyalty, Taste, Honour, Truth,
Flash'd from the Scene, re-charm our list'ning Youth:
And, Virtues, (by YOUR Influence form'd) sustain
The future Glories of their Founder's Reign.*

Nor,

To His Royal Highness the PRINCE.

Nor, let due Care of a *protected Stage*,
Misjudg'd *Amusement*, but *spare Hours* engage :
Strong, *serious*, TRUTHS, the manly *Muse* displays;
And leads charm'd *Reason* thro' those *flow'ry Ways*.
While HISTORY's cold Care but *Facts* enrolls,
The MUSE, (pervasive) saves the pictur'd *Souls* !
Beyond all *Egypt's GUMS*, *embalms* Mankind ;
And stamps the living Features of the MIND.

Time can eject the Sons of Pow'r, from Fame ;
And, *He*, who gains a World, may LOSE his NAME .
But, *cherish'd Arts* insure immortal Breath ;
And, bid their *prop'd Defenders*, tread on Death !

Look back, lov'd *Prince* ! on Ages sunk in *Shade*,
And feel, what DARKNESS, absent *Genius* made !
Think, on the dead *Forefathers* of your *Place* !
Think, on the stern *First-founders* of your Race !
And, where *lost Story* sleeps, in silent Night ;
Charge to their want of *Taste*, their want of LIGHT.

When, in your rising Grove, (no *Converse* nigh)
BLACK EDWARD's awful *Bust* demands your Eye,
Think, from *what Cause*, blind *Chronicles* DEFAME
The *gross-told* Tow'rings, of that dreadful Name !
Search him, thro' FANCY : and *suppose* him, shown
By the *Long Glories*, to the MUSES known :
Shining, disclos'd—o'ertrampling *Death's* Controul !
And, opening, *backward*, All his *Depth* of Soul !

To His Royal Highness the PRINCE.

*Then—breathe a conscious Sigh, to mourn his Fate,
Who form'd no Writers, like his Spirit, Great!
To limn his living Thoughts——past Fame renew;
And build HIM Honours, they reserve, for You!*

I am,

With profound Respect,

S I R,

Your ROYAL HIGHNESS's

most humble

and obedient Servant,

A. HILL.



PREFACE to the READER.

THE Beauties of Nature, will be Beauties everlastingly.—If they are, sometimes eclips'd, by a Cloud of ill Accidents, they disperse the dark Screen; and, again, become amiable.

But, unwilling to suppose, we are, now, under Influence of such a Cloud, with regard to Dramatical Taste, I thought it more decent, (and juster) to charge its Degeneracy to the STAGE, than to the Genius of the Nation.

Accounting in this manner for the Defect, I have often taken Pleasure, (when turning my Search towards a Remedy) to consider it as no improbable Hope, that YOUNG Actors, and Actresses, beginning, uneduc'd by AFFECTING EXAMPLES, might go some Length, towards what has been said of a celebrated Writer,

“ Who reach'd Perfection in his first Essay.”

It requir'd, methought, but the Assistance of a lively Imagination, join'd to an easy, and natural, Power; with a resolute Habitude, to BE, for an Hour or two, the very Persons, they would seem. — Such a Foundation for accomplished Acting, lies so open, and so clearly in Nature, that they, who find it at all, must discover it at first: because, when Men are once got out of the Road, they, who travel the farthest, have but most Length of Way to ride back again.

Yet, the Interests in Playhouses were so positive, in the contrary Sentiment, that they submitted to reverence, as a Maxim, this extraordinary Concession, “ That Actors must be twenty Years such, before they can expect to be Masters of the Air, and Tread, of the Stage.”

PREFACE to the READER.

Now, there is but one View, in Nature, wherein I was willing to admit of this Argument: I was forc'd to confess, I had seen some particular Stage Airs, and Stage Treads, which a Man of good Sense might indeed, waste a long Life, in endeavouring to imitate, and, at last, lose his Labour!

However, since an Opinion, in opposition to these Gentlemen's, wanted Weight to make That believ'd possible, which had not, yet, been reduc'd into Practice, I took a sudden Resolution, actually to try, WHO was in the Right, by attempting the EXPERIMENT. — This, I knew, was a Design, which, succeeding, would not fail to give Pleasure to the Publick; and, which, miscarrying, could produce no worse Consequence, than my particular Mortification.

I imagin'd it reasonable to found a Trial, of this Nature, rather on a New Play, than an Old one: And, as it ought to be a Play, of unquestionable Merit, it must have been Presumption, and Vanity, to have cast a Thought toward any thing, of my own. — Upon the whole, that I might keep out of the Reach either of Prejudice, or Partiality, a Foreign Production seem'd the properest Choice; and, the ZAIRE, of Monsieur de Voltaire, offer'd me every thing that Nature could do, on the Part of the Poet: But, I had still something to wish, with regard to that other Part of her Influence, which depended upon the Player.

I had (of late) among the Rest of the Town, been depriv'd of all rational Pleasure from the Theatre, by a monstrous, and unmoving, Affectation: which, choking up the Avenues to Passion, had made Tragedy FORBIDDING, and HORRIBLE.

I was despairing to see a Correction of this Folly; when I found myself, unexpectedly, re-animated, by the War which The PROMPTER has proclaim'd, and is now, Weekly, waging, against the Ranters, and Whiners, of the Theatre; after having undertaken to reduce the Actor's lost Art, into PRINCIPLES; with Design, by reconciling them to the touching, and spirited, Medium, to reform those wild Copies of Life, into some Resemblance, at least, of their Originals.

Thus, confirm'd in my Sentiments, I ventur'd on the Cast of Two Capital Characters, into Hands, not disabled, by

Custia,

PREFACE to the READER.

Custom, and obstinate Prejudice, from pursuing the Plain Track, of NATURE.

It was easy to induce OSMAN, (as he is a Relation of my own, and but too fond of the Amusement) to make Trial; how far his Delight, in an Art, I shall never allow him to practise, might enable him to supply one Part of the Proof, that, to imitate Nature, we must proceed, upon Natural Principles.

At the same time, it happen'd, that Mrs. CIBBER was, fortunately, inclinable to exert her inimitable Talent, in additional Aid of my Purpose, with View to continue the Practice, of a Profession, for which, Her Person, Her Voice, the unaffected Sensibility of her Heart, (and her Face, so finely dispos'd, for assuming, and expressing the PASSIONS) have, so naturally, qualify'd her.

And, to give this bold Novelty of Design, all its necessary Furtherance, Mr. FLETEWOOD, who professes the most generous Inclinations, for Improvement of his troublesome Province, very willingly concurr'd, in whatever cou'd, on His Part, be of Use, to the Experiment.

Behold, in this little Detail, from what Motive, I have taken upon me to throw one of the finest of French Plays upon the Publick. ——— If my Expectations are not strangely deceiv'd, it will be found, by the Event, whether our Taste for true Tragedy is declin'd; or, the true Art of Acting is forgotten.

From the First, I can have nothing to conclude, but, that my Judgment has been weak, and mistaken.

But, if the Last proves the Case, I shall flatter myself, that those Persons of Quality, from whose imaginary Want of Discernment some People have not blush'd, to DERIVE their Dull Qualities, will, in Right of their insulted Understanding, EXACT, for the future, a warm, and, toilsome, Exertion, of the Strong and the Natural, tho' at the COST of the Lazy and Affect'd.

This would awaken, at once, the Reflection, of many, who have it in their POWER to be moving, and natural, Actors; and, by effectually convincing them, that their Present Opini-

PREFACE to the READER.

nion is wrong, bring 'em over (for their own, and the Public Advantage) to embrace, and succeed by, a New one.

Such a Step toward reforming the Theatre, wou'd draw on, (as a Consequence) many, of its nobler Improvements.— For, where Emotions are keenest, the Delight becomes greatest; and, to whatever most charms, we, most closely, adhere; and, encourage it, most actively.

If, in translating this excellent Tragedy, I have regarded, in some Places, the Soul, and, in others, the Letter, of the Original, Monsieur de Voltaire, who has made himself a very capable Judge, both of our Language, and Customs, will indulge me that Latitude; except, he shou'd, in observing some Alterations I have made, in his Names, and his Diction, forget, that their Motives are to be found, in the Turn of our National Difference.

After what I have said of the Playhouses, it wou'd be Injustice, not to declare, that I exclude from the Censure, of Speaking, or acting, unnaturally, Any One of the Persons, who have been cast into Z A R A. — And in particular, I must say This, of TWO of them; that Mr. MILWARD, who is already a very excellent, and hourly rising to be an accomplish'd, Actor, has a VOICE, that both comprehends, and expresses, the utmost Compass of HARMONY. — And, Mr. CIBBER, discerningly pursued, thro' the numberless Extent of his Walks, is an Actor, of as unlimited a Compass of GENIUS, as ever I saw on the Stage; and is, barely, receiv'd, as he deserves, when the Town is most favourable.

PRO;

P R O L O G U E

Written by COLLEY CIBBER, Esq;

Spoke by Mr. CIBBER.

THE French, *howe'er Mercurial they may seem,*
Extinguish half their Fire, by Critic Phlegm:
While English Writers Nature's Freedom claim,
And warm their Scenes with an ungovern'd Flame:
'Tis strange, that Nature never should inspire
A Racine's Judgment with a Shakespeare's Fire!

Howe'er, to-night,----(to promise much we're loth)
But——you've a Chance, to have a Taste of Both.
From English Plays, Zara's French Author fir'd,
Confess'd his Muse, beyond herself, inspir'd;
From rack'd Othello's Rage, he rais'd his Style,
And snatch'd the Brand, that lights this Tragick Pile:
Zara's Success his utmost Hopes outflaw,
And a twice twentieth Weeping Audience drew.

As for our English Friend, he leaves to you,
Whate'er may seem to his Performance due;
No Views of Gain, his Hopes or Fears engage,
He gives a Child of Leisure to the Stage:
Willing to try, if yet, forsaken Nature,
Can charm with any One remember'd Feature.

Thus far, the Author speaks——but now, the Player,
With trembling Heart, prefers His humble Prayer.

To-night, the greatest Venture of my Life,
Is Lost, or Sav'd, as You receive——a Wife:

If Time, you think, may ripen her, to Merit,
With gentle Smiles, support her wavering Spirit.

Zara, in France, at once, an Actress rais'd,
Warm'd into Skill, by being kindly Prais'd.

O! could such Wonders Here, from Favour flow,
How would our Zara's Heart, with Transport glow!

But she, alas! by juster Fears oppress,
Begs but your bare Endurance, at the Best.

Her unskill'd Tongue would simple Nature speak,
Nor dares Her Bounds, for false Applauses break.

Amidst a thousand Faults, her best Pretence
To please——is unpresuming Innocence.

When

P R O L O G U E.

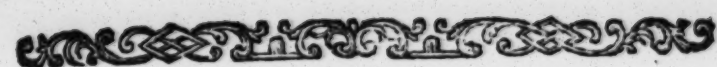
*When a chaste Heart's Distress your Grief demands,
 One silent Tear outweighs a thousand Hands.
 If she conveys the pleasing Passions, RIGHT,
 Guard and Support her this decisive Night.
 If she MISTAKES ——— or, finds her Strength too small,
 Let interposing Pity ——— break her Fall.
 In You it rests, to Save her, or Destroy;
 If she draws Tears from You, I Weep---for JOY.*

Persons Represented, in 1758.

Osman, <i>Sultan of Jerusalem,</i>	By Mr. Mossop.		
Lusignan, <i>last of the Blood of the</i>	} Mr. Garrick.		
Christian Kings of Jerusalem,			
Zara, }	} Mrs. Cibber.		
Selima, }			
	} <i>Slaves to the Sultan,</i>		
	} Mrs. Davis.		
Nerestan, }	} French Officers.	} Mr. Davis.	
Chatillon, }			
	} Mr. Blakes.		
Orasmin, <i>Minister to the Sultan,</i>	Mr. Burton.		
Melidor, <i>an Officer in the Seraglio,</i>	Mr. Scrace.		

S C E N E, *the Seraglio, at Jerusalem.*

T H E



THE
TRAGEDY of ZARA.

ACT I. SCENE I.

ZARA and SELIMA.

SELIMA.

IT moves my Wonder, young and beauteous *Zara*,
Whence these new Sentiments inspire your Heart!
Your Peace of Mind increases with your Charms;
Tears, now, no longer shade your Eyes' soft Lustre:
You meditate, no more, those happy Climes,
To which *Naristan* will return to guide you:
You talk no more of that gay Nation, now,
Where Men adore their Wives, and Woman's Power
Draws Rev'rence from a polish'd People's Softness:
Their Husbands' Equals; and their Lovers' Queens!
Free, without Scandal; wise without Restraint;
Their Virtue, due to Nature, not to Fear!
Why have you ceas'd to wish this happy Change?
A barr'd Seraglio!—sad, unfocial Life!
Scorn'd, and a Slave! All this has lost its Terror;
And *Syria* rivals, now, the Banks of *Seine*!

ZARA.

Joys, which we do not know, we do not wish;
My Fate's bound in by *Sion*'s sacred Wall;
Clos'd, from my Infancy, within this Palace,
Custom has learnt, from *Time*, the Power to please:
I claim no Share in the remoter World,
The Sultan's Property, his Will my Law;
Unknowing All, but Him, his Power, his Fame;

To

16 *The* TRAGEDY of ZARA.

To live his Subject, is my only Hope,
All, else, an empty Dream. —————

S E L I A.

Have you forgot

Absent *Nerestan* then? whose gen'rous Friendship,
So nobly vow'd Redemption from your Chains!
How oft have you admir'd his dauntless Soul!
Osman, his Conqu'ror, by his Courage, charm'd,
Trusted his Faith, and on his Word, releas'd him:
Tho' not return'd, in Time — we, yet, expect him:
Nor had his Noble Journey other Motive,
Than to procure our Ransom; — And is this,
This, dear, warm Hope — become an idle Dream?

Z A R A

Since, after two long Years, he not returns,
'Tis plain, his Promise stretch'd beyond his Power:
A Stranger, and a Slave, unknown like him,
Proposing much, means Little; — Talks, and vows,
Delighted with a Prospect of Escape: —————
He promis'd to redeem Ten Christians more,
And free us All, from Slavery! — I own,
I once admir'd th' unprofitable Zeal,
But, now, it charms no longer. —————

S E L I M A.

What! if yet,

He, faithful, shou'd return, and hold his Vow?
Wou'd you not, then —————

Z A R A.

No matter ————— Time is past;

And every Thing is chang'd —————

S E L I M A.

But, whence comes This?

Z A R A.

Go — 'twere too much to tell thee *Zara's* Fate;
The Sultan's Secrets, all, are sacred, here:
But my fond Heart delights to mix with Thine. —
Some Three Months past, when thou, and other Slaves,
Were forc'd to quit fair *Jordan's* flow'ry Bank;
Heaven, to cut short the Anguish of my Days,

Rail

The TRAGEDY of ZARA.

17

Rais'd me, to Comfort, by a powerful Hand!
This mighty *Osman*! ———

S E L I M A.

What of Him? ———

Z A R A.

This Sultan!

This Conqu'ror of the Christians! loves ———

S E L I M A.

Whom? ———

Z A R A.

Zara!

Thou blushest, and I guess, thy Thoughts accuse me;
But, know me better——'twas unjust Suspicion:
All Emperor, as he is, I cannot stoop
To Honours, that bring Shame and Baseness with 'em.
Reason, and Pride, those Props of Modesty,
Sustain my guarded Heart, and strengthen Virtue;
Rather than sink to Infamy, let *Chains*
Embrace me, with a Joy, such Love denies:
No——I shall, now, astonish thee;——His Greatness
Submits, to own a pure, and honest Flame;
Among the shining Crowds, which *live* to please him,
His whole Regard is fix'd on *Me*, alone:
He offers Marriage——and its Rites, now, wait,
To crown me Empress of this Eastern World.

S E L I M A.

Your Virtue, and your Charms, deserve it All:
My Heart is not surpriz'd, but struck to hear it;
If, to be *Empress*, can compleat your Happiness,
I rank myself, with Joy, among your Slaves.

Z A R A.

Be, still, my Equal——and enjoy my Blessings:
For, *Thou* partaking, they will bless *Me* more.

S E L I M A.

Alas! but Heaven! will it permit this Marriage?
Will not this Grandeur, falsely call'd a Bliss,
Plant Bitterness, and root it, in your Heart?
Have you forgot, you are of Christian Blood?

Z A R A.

Ah me! what hast thou said? Why wou'dst thou, thus,
Recall

18 *The TRAGEDY of ZARA.*

Recall my wav'ring Thoughts?---How know I, what,
Or whence I am? Heaven kept it, hid, in Darkness,
Conceal'd me from myself, and from my Blood.

S E L I M A.

Nereflan, who was born a Christian, here,
Asserts, that You, like Him, had Christian Parents;
Besides—*That* Cross, which, from your Infant Years,
Has been preserv'd, was found upon your Bosom,
As if design'd, by Heaven, a Pledge of Faith,
Due to the God, you purpose to forsake!

Z A R A.

Can my fond Heart, on such a feeble Proof,
Embrace a Faith, abhorr'd by him I love?
I see, too plainly, Custom forms us All;
Our Thoughts, our Morals, our most fix'd Belief,
Are Consequences of our Place of Birth:
Born beyond *Ganges*, I had been a Pagan;
In *France*, a Christian;—I am, here, a *Saracen*:
'Tis but *Instruction*, all! Our Parent's Hand
Writes, on our Heart, the first, faint Characters,
Which Time, re-tracing, deepens into Strength,
That nothing can efface, but Death, or Heaven!—
Thou wert not made a Pris'ner in this Place,
Till, after Reason, borrowing Force from Years,
Had lent its Lustre, to enlighten Faith:—
For me, who, in my Cradle was their Slave,
Thy Christian Doctrines were, too lately, taught me:
Yet, far from having lost the Rev'rence due,
This Cross, as often as it meets my Eye,
Strikes thro' my Heart a kind of awful Fear!
I honour, from my Soul, the Christian Laws,
Those Laws, which, soft'ning Nature, by Humanity,
Melt Nations into Brotherhood;—no doubt,
Christians are happy; and, 'tis just to love 'em.

S E L I M A.

Why have you, then, declar'd yourself their Foe?
Why will you join your Hand, with this proud *Osman's*?
Who owes his Triumphs to the Christians' Ruin!

Z A R A.

Ah!—*Who* cou'd *slight* the Offer of his Heart?

Nay

The TRAGEDY of ZARA. 19

Nay—for I mean to tell thee all my Weakness;
 Perhaps, I had, ere now, profess'd *Thy* Faith,
 But *Osman* lov'd me—and I've lost it All:
 I think, on none, but *Osman*—my pleas'd Heart,
 Fill'd with the Blessing, to be lov'd, by *Him*,
 Wants Room for other Happiness:—Place thou,
 Before thy Eyes, his Merit, and his Fame,
 His Youth, yet, blooming but in Manhood's Dawn!
 How many conquer'd Kings have swell'd his Pow'r!
 Think, too, how lovely! how his Brow becomes
 This Wreath of early Glories!—Oh! my Friend!
 I talk not of a Scepter, which he gives me:
 No—to be charm'd with That, were Thanks, too
 humble!

Offensive Tribute, and, too poor, for Love!
 'Twas *Osman*, won my Heart, not *Osman's* Crown:
 I love not, in *Him*, aught, besides Himself.
 Thou think'st, perhaps, that these are Starts of Passion;
 But, had the Will of Heav'n, less bent to bless him,
 Doom'd *Osman* to my Chains, and Me, to fill
 The Throne, that *Osman* sits on—Ruin and Wretch-
 edness

Catch, and consume, my Wishes, but I wou'd—
 To raise me, to my self, descend to *Him*.

S E L I M A.

Hark! the wish'd Music sounds!—'Tis he—
 he comes— [Exit Selima.

Z A R A.

My Heart prevented him, and found him near:
 Absent, two whole long Days, the slow-pac'd Hour,
 At last, is come—and gives him, to my Wishes!

Enter Osman, reading a Paper, which he re-delivers to
Orasmin.

O S M A N.

Wait my Return—or, shou'd there be a Cause,
 That may require my Presence—do not fear
 To enter—ever mindful, that my Own

[Exit Orasmin.
Follows

*Follows my People's, Happiness.———At length,
Cares have releas'd my Heart———to Love, and Zara.*
Z A R A.

"Twas not in cruel Absence, to deprive me
Of your Imperial Image——every where,
You reign, triumphant: Memory supplies
Reflexion, with your Pow'r; and you, like Heaven,
Are, always present——and are, always gracious.

O S M A N.

The Sultans, my great Ancestors, bequeath'd
Their Empire to me, but their Taste they gave not;
Their Laws, their Lives, their Loves, delight not me;
I know our Prophet smiles, on am'rous Wishes,
And opens a wild Field, to vast Desire:
I know, that, at my Will, I might possess;
That, wasting Tenderness, in wild Profusion,
I might look down, to my surrounded Feet,
And bless contending Beauties.——I might speak,
Serenely slothful, from within my Palace,
And bid *my Pleasure* be my *People's Law*.
But, sweet, as Softness is, its End is cruel;
I can look round, and count a Hundred Kings,
Unconquer'd, by themselves, and Slaves to others:
Hence was *Jerusalem*, to Christians, lost;
But Heaven, to blast that unbelieving Race,
Taught me, to *be a King*, by *thinking like one*.
Hence from the distant *Euxine*, to the *Nile*,
The Trumpet's Voice has wak'd the World to War;
Yet, amidst Arms, and Death, *thy Power* has reach'd me:
For, thou disdain'st, like me, a languid Love;
Glory, and *Zara*, join——and charm, together.

Z A R A.

I hear, at once, with Blushes, and, with Joy,
This Passion, so unlike your Country's Customs.

O S M A N.

Passion, like mine, disdains my Country's Customs,
The Jealousy, the Faintness, the Distrust,
The proud, superior, Coldness, of the East:
I know to love you, *Zara*, with Esteem;
To trust your Virtue, and to court your Soul.

Nobly

The TRAGEDY of ZARA. 21

Nobly confiding, I unveil my Heart,
And dare inform you, that, 'tis All your own :
My Joys must, *All*, be yours — only my *Cares*
Shall lie, conceal'd, within — and reach not *Zara*.

Z A R A.

Oblig'd, by this Excess of Tendernefs,
How low, how wretched, was the Lot of *Zara* !
Too poor, with aught, but Thanks, to pay such Bless
fings !

O S M A N.

Not so — I love — and wou'd be lov'd, again ;
Let me confess it, I possess a Soul,
That what it wishes, wishes, *ardently*.
I shou'd believe, you *bated*, had you *Power*
To love, with *Moderation* : 'Tis my Aim,
In every thing, to reach supreme *Perfection*.
If, with an equal Flame, I touch your Heart,
Marriage attends your Smile — but know, 'twill make
Me wretched, if it makes not *Zara* happy.

Z A R A.

Ah ! Sir, if such a Heart, as gen'rous *Osman's*,
Can, from my Will, submit to take its Bliss,
What Mortal, ever, was decreed so happy !
Pardon the Pride, with which I own my Joy ;
Thus, wholly, to possess the Man, I love !
To know, and to confess, his Will my Fate !
To be the happy Work of his dear Hands !
To be —————

Enter Orasmin.

O S M A N.

Already interrupted ! What ?

Who ? — Whence ? —————

O R A S M I N.

This Moment, Sir, there is arriv'd
That Christian Slave, who, licens'd, on his Faith,
Went hence, to *Frans* — and, now return'd, prays
audience.

Z A R A.

ZARA.

[*Afide.*] O! Heaven!

O S M A N.

Admit him—What?—Why comes he not?

O R A S M I N.

He waits, without?—No Christian dares approach
This Place, long sacred to the Sultan's Privacies.

O S M A N.

Go—bring him with thee---Monarchs, like the Sun,
Shine but in vain, unwarming, if unseen:
With Forms, and Rev'rence, let the *Great* approach us;
Not the *Unhappy*;—Every Place, alike,
Gives the Distress'd a Privilege to enter.——

[*Exit Orasmin.*]

I think, with Horror, on these dreadful Maxims;
Which harden Kings, insensibly, to Tyrants.

Re-enter Orasmin, with Nereftan.

N E R E S T A N.

Imperial-Sultan! honour'd, ev'n by Foes!
See me, return'd, regardful of my Vow,
And, punctual, to discharge a Christian's Duty:
I bring the Ransom of the Captive, *Zara*,
Fair *Selima*, the Partner of her Fortune,
And of Ten Christian Captives, Pris'ners, here.
You promis'd, Sultan, if I shou'd return,
To grant their rated Liberty:——Behold,
I *am* return'd, and they are yours, no more.
I wou'd have stretch'd my Purpose, to *Myself*,
But Fortune has deny'd it;—My poor All
Suffic'd, no further; and a noble Poverty
Is now, my whole Possession:——I redeem
The promis'd Christians; for I taught 'em Hope.
But, for myself, I come, again, your Slave,
To wait the fuller Hand of future Charity.

O S M A N.

Christian! I must confess, thy *Courage* charms me;
But let thy *Pride* be taught, it treads too high,
When it presumes to climb, above my Mercy.——

Go,

Go, ransomless, thyself——and carry back
 Their unaccepted Ransoms, join'd with Gifts,
 Fit to reward thy Purpose:——Instead of Ten,
 Demand a Hundred Christians; they are thine:
 Take 'em——and bid 'em teach their haughty Country,
 They left some Virtue, among *Saracens*.——
 Be *Lusignan*, alone, excepted——He,
 Who boasts the Blood of Kings, and dares lay Claim
 To *My Jerusalem*——That Claim his Guilt!
 Such is the Law of States, had I been vanquish'd,
 Thus had *He* said, of *Me*:——I mourn his Lot,
 Who must, in Fetters, lost to Day-light, pine,
 And sigh away old Age, in Grief, and Pain.——
 For *Zara*——but to name her, as a Captive,
 Were to dishonour Language;——she's a Prize,
 Above thy Purchase;——All the Christian Realms,
 With all their Kings to guide 'em, would unite
 In vain, to force her from me.——Go, retire.——

N E R E S T A N.

For *Zara's* Ransom, with her own Consent,
 I had your Royal Word——For *Lusignan*——
 Unhappy, poor, old Man——

O S M A N.

Was I not heard?

Have I not told thee, Christian, all my Will?
 What, if I prais'd thee!——This presumptuous Virtue,
 Compelling my Esteem, provokes my Pride:
 Be gone——and, when To-morrow's Sun shall rise
 On my Dominions, be not found——too near me.

[Exit Nerestan.]

Z A R A.

[Aside.] Assist him, Heaven!

O S M A N.

Zara, retire, a Moment——

Assume, throughout my Palace, Sovereign Empire,
 While I give Orders, to prepare the Pomp,
 That waits to crown thee Mistress of my Throne:

[Leads her out, and returns.]

Orafin! didst thou mark th' imperious Slave?

What

24 *The TRAGEDY of ZARA.*

What cou'd he mean? — he sigh'd---and, as he went,
Turn'd and look'd back at *Zara*! --didst thou mark it?

O R A S M I N.

Alas! my Sovereign Master! let not Jealousy
Strike high enough, to reach your noble Heart.

O S M A N.

Jealousy, said'st thou? I disdain it: — No! —
Distrust is poor; and a misplac'd Suspicion
Invites, and justifies, the Falshood fear'd. —
Yet, as I love with Warmth — So I *cou'd* hate!
But, *Zara* is above Disguise, and Art: —
My Love is stronger, nobler than my Power.
Jealous! — I was not jealous — If I was,
I am not — no — my Heart — but, let us drown
Remembrance of the Word, and of the Image:
My Heart is filled with a diviner Flame. —
Go — and prepare for the approaching Nuptials;
Zara to *careful Empire* joins Delight,
I must allot one Hour to Thoughts of State,
Then, all the smiling Day is Love's and *Zara's*.

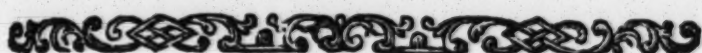
[*Exit Orasmin.*]

Monarchs, by Forms of pompous Misery, press'd,
In proud, unsocial, Solitude, unblest'd,
Wou'd, but for Love's soft Influence, curse their Throne,
And, among crowded Millions, live, *alone*.

End of the first Act.



ACT



ACT II. SCENE I.
NERESTAN, CHATILLON.

CHATILLON.

Matchless *Nerestan*! Generous and Great!
You, who have broke the Chains of hopeless
Slaves!

You, Christian Saviour! by a Saviour sent!
Appear, be known, enjoy your due Delight;
The grateful Weepers wait, to clasp your Knees,
They throng to kiss the happy Hand, that sav'd 'em:
Indulge the kind Impatience of their Eyes,
And, at their Head, command their Hearts, for ever.

NERESTAN.

Illustrious *Chatillon*! this Praise o'erwhelms me;
What have I done, beyond a Christian's Duty?
Beyond, what *You* wou'd, in my Place, have done?

CHATILLON.

True ——— It is ev'ry honest Christian's Duty;
Nay, 'tis the Blessing of such Minds, as our's,
For others' Good, to sacrifice our own. ———
Yet, happy they, to whom Heaven grants the Power,
To execute, like you, that Duty's Call!
For us ——— the Relicks of abandon'd War,
Forgot in *France*, and, in *Jerusalem*,
Left, to grow old, in Fetters; ——— *Osman's* Father
Consign'd us to the Gloom of a damp Dungeon,
Where, but for you, we must have groan'd out Life;
And native *France* have blest'd our Eyes no more.

NERESTAN.

The Will of gracious Heaven, that soften'd *Osman*,
Inspir'd me, for your sakes; ——— But, with our Joy,
Flows, mix'd, a bitter Sadness ——— I had hop'd,
To save, from their Perversion, a young Beauty,
Who, in her Infant Innocence, with me,

B

Was

Was made a Slave by cruel *Noradin* ;
 When, sprinkling *Syria*, with the Blood of Christians,
Cæsarea's Walls saw *Lusignan*, surpris'd,
 And the proud Crescent rise, in bloody Triumph :
 From this Seraglio, having, young, escap'd,
 Fate, three Years since, restor'd me to my Chains ;
 Then, sent to *Paris*, on my plighted Faith,
 I flatter'd my fond Hope, with vain Resolves,
 To guide the lovely *Zara*, to that Court,
 Where *Lewis* has establish'd Virtue's Throne ; —
 But *Osman* will detain her — yet, not *Osman* ;
Zara, herself, forgets she is a Christian,
 And loves the Tyrant Sultan ! — Let That pass :
 I mourn a Disappointment, still, more cruel ;
 The Prop of all our Christian Hope is lost !

CHATILLON.

Dispose me, at your Will — I am your own.

NERESTAN.

Oh, Sir, great *Lusignan*, so long, their Captive,
 That Last, of an Heroick Race of Kings !
 That Warrior ! whose past Fame has fill'd the World !
Osman refuses, to my Sighs, for ever !

CHATILLON.

Nay, then, we have been all redeem'd, in vain ;
 Perish that Soldier, who wou'd quit his Chains,
 And leave his noble Chief, behind, in Fetters.
 Alas ! you know him not, as I have known him ;
 Thank Heaven, that plac'd your Birth, so far, remov'd,
 From those detested Days of Blood, and Woe ;
 But I, less happy, was condemn'd, to see
 Thy Walls, *Jerusalem*, beat down — and all
 Our pious Fathers' Labours lost, in Ruins !
 Heaven ! had you seen the very Temple rifled !
 The Sacred Sepulchre, itself, profan'd !
 Fathers with Children, mingled, flame together !
 And our last King, oppress'd, by Age, and Arms,
 Murder'd, — and bleeding, o'er his murder'd Sons !
 Then, *Lusignan*, sole Remnant of his Race,
 Rallying our fated Few, amidst the Flames,
 Fearless, beneath the Crush of falling Towers,

The

The TRAGEDY of ZARA.

27

The Conqu'rors, and the Conquer'd, Groans, and Death!
Dreadful——and, waving in his Hand, his Sword,
Red, with the Blood of Infidels——cry'd out,
This Way, ye faithful Christians! follow *Me*.

NERESTAN.

How full of Glory was that brave Retreat!

CHATILLON.

'Twas Heaven, no doubt, that sav'd, and led him on;
Pointed his Path; and march'd, our Guardian Guide:
We reach'd *Cæsarea*——there, the general Voice
Chose *Lusignan*, thenceforth, to give us Laws;
Alas! 'twas vain——*Cæsarea* cou'd not stand,
When *Sion's* Self was fall'n!——we were betray'd;
And *Lusignan* condemn'd, to Length of Life,
In Chains, and Damps, and Darknefs, and Despair:
Yet, Great, amidst his Miseries, he look'd,
As if he could not feel his Fate, himself,
But, as it reach'd his Followers:——And shall we,
For whom our gen'rous Leader suffer'd This,
Be, vilely, safe? and dare, be bless'd, without him?

NERESTAN.

Oh! I should hate the Liberty, he shar'd not:
I knew, too well, the Miseries, you describe,
For I was born, amidst 'em——Chains, and Death,
Cæsarea lost, and *Saracens*, triumphant,
Were the first Objects, which my Eyes e'er look'd on.
Hurried, an Infant, among other Infants,
Snatch'd, from the Bosoms of their bleeding Mothers,
A Temple sav'd us, till the Slaughter ceas'd;
Then, were we sent to this ill-fated City,
Here, in the Palace of our former Kings,
To learn, from *Saracens*, their hated Faith,
And be compleatly wretched.——*Zara*, too,
Shar'd this Captivity; we, both, grew up,
So near each other, that a tender Friendship
Endear'd her to my Wishes:——My fond Heart——
Pardon its Weaknefs! bleeds to see her lost,
And, for a barb'rous Tyrant, quit her God!

CHATILLON.

Such is the *Saracens'*, too fatal, Policy!

B 2

Watchful

28 *The* TRAGEDY of ZARA.

Watchful Seducers, still, of Infant Weakness :
 Happy, that *You*, so young, escap'd their Hands!
 But, let us think——May not this *Zara's* Int'rest,
 Loving the Sultan, and, by him belov'd,
 For *Lusignan* procure some softer Sentence?
 The Wife, and Just, with Innocence, may draw
 Their own Advantage, from the Guilt of others.

NERESTAN.

How shall I gain Admittance to her Presence?
Osman has banish'd me——but That's a Trifle;
 Will the Seraglio's Portals open to me?
 Or, cou'd I find *That*, easy, to my Hopes,
 What Prospect of Success, from an Apostate?
 On whom I cannot look, without Disdain;
 And who will read her Shame, upon my Brow?
 †The hardest Trial of a gen'rous Mind
 Is, to court Favours, from a Hand it scorns.

CHATILLON.

Think, it is *Lusignan*, we seek to serve.

NERESTAN.

Well——It shall be attempted——Hark! who's this?
 Are my Eyes false? or, is it, really, She?

Enter Zara.

ZARA.

Start not, my worthy Friend! I come to seek you;
 The Sultan has permitted it; fear nothing:——
 But to confirm my Heart, which trembles, near you.
 Soften that angry Air, nor look Reproach;
 Why should we fear each other, Both, mistaking?
 Associates from our Birth, one Prison held us,
 One Friendship taught Affliction, to be calm;
 Till Heaven thought fit to favour your Escape,
 And call you to the Fields of happier *France*;
 Thence, once again it was my Lot to find you,
 A Pris'ner, here; where, hid, amongst a Crowd
 Of Undistinguish'd Slaves, with less Restraint,
 I shar'd your frequent Converse;——
 It pleas'd your Pity, shall I say your Friendship?

On

The TRAGEDY of ZARA.

29

Or, rather, shall I call it generous Charity ?
To form the noble Purpose, to redeem
Distressful *Zara*——you procur'd my Ransom,
And, with a Greatness, that out-soar'd a Crown,
Return'd, Yourself a Slave, to give *Me* Freedom!
But Heaven has cast our Fate, for different Climes ;
Here, in *Jerusalem*, I fix, for ever :
Yet, among all the Shine, that marks my Fortune,
I shall, with frequent Tears, remember Your's ;
And keep your Image, still, a Dweller, there.
Warm'd, by your great Example, to protect
That Faith, that lifts Humanity, so high,
I'll be a Mother to distressful Christians.

N E R E S T A N.

How !—*You* protect the Christians ! *You*, who can
Abjure their saving Truth !——and, coldly, see
Great *Lusignan*, their Chief, die slow, in Chains ?

Z A R A.

To bring him Freedom, you behold me here,
You will, this Moment, meet his Eyes, in Joy :

C H A T I L L O N.

Shall I, then, live, to bless that happy Hour ?

N E R E S T A N.

Can Christians owe, so dear a Gift, to *Zara* ?

Z A R A.

Hopeless, I gather'd Courage, to entreat
The Sultan, for his Liberty——Amaz'd,
So soon, to gain the Happiness, I wish'd !
See ! where they bring the good, old Chief, grown dim,
With Age, by Pain, and Sorrows, hasten'd on !

C H A T I L L O N.

How is my Heart dissolv'd, with sudden Joy !

Z A R A.

I long to view his venerable Face,
But Tears, I know not why, eclipse my Sight !
I feel, methinks, redoubled Pity for him ;
But I, alas ! myself, have been a Slave ;
And, when we pity Woes, which we have felt,
'Tis but a partial Virtue !

B 3

N E

30 . *The* TRAGEDY of ZARA.

NERESTAN.

Amazement!—Whence this Greatness, in an Infidel

Enter Lusignan, led in by two Guards.

LUSIGNAN.

Where am I? What forgiving Angel's Voice
Has call'd me, to revisit long-lost Day?
Am I with Christians?—I am weak—forgive me,
And guide my trembling Steps:—I'm full of Years,
Yet, *Misery* has worn me, more than Age.
[*Seating himself.*] Am I, in Truth, at Liberty?—

CHATILLON.

You are;
And ev'ry Christian's Grief takes end, with yours.

LUSIGNAN.

O, Light!—O! dearer, far, than Light! that Voice!
Chatillon! is it you?—my Fellow Martyr!
And, shall our Wretchedness, indeed, have end?
In what Place are we, now?—my feeble Eyes,
Disus'd to Day-light, long, in vain, to find you.

CHATILLON.

This *was* the Palace of your Royal Fathers,
'Tis, now, the Son of *Noradin's* Seraglio.

ZARA.

The Master of this Place ——— the mighty *Osman!*
Distinguishes, and loves to cherish, Virtue;
This gen'rous *Frenchman*, yet, a Stranger to you,
Drawn from his Native Soil, from Peace, and Rest,
Brought the vow'd Ransoms of Ten Christian Slaves,
Himself, contented, to remain a Captive:
But *Osman*, charm'd by Greatness, like his own,
To equal, what he lov'd, has giv'n him, *You*.

LUSIGNAN.

So, gen'rous *France* inspires her social Sons!
They have been, ever, dear, and useful to me!
Wou'd I were nearer to him ——— Noble Sir!
How have I merited, that you, for me,
Shou'd pass such distant Seas, to bring me Blessings,
And hazard your own Safety, for my Sake?

NE.

N E R E S T A N.

My Name, Sir, is *Nerestan* ——— Born, in *Syria* ;
I wore the Chains of Slav'ry, from my Birth ;
Till, quitting the proud Crescent, for the Court,
Where warlike *Lewis* reigns, beneath his Eye,
I learnt the Trade of Arms : ——— The Rank, I hold,
Was but the kind Distinction, which he gave me,
To tempt my Courage, to deserve Regard.
Your Sight, unhappy Prince, wou'd charm his Eye ;
That Best, and Greatest Monarch, will behold,
With Grief, and Joy, those venerable Wounds,
And print Embraces, where your Fetters bound you :
All *Paris* will revere the Cross's Martyr ;
Paris, the Refuge, still, of ruin'd Kings !

L U S I G N A N.

Alas ! in Times, long past, I've seen its Glory :
When *Philip*, the Victorious, liv'd ——— I fought,
Abreast, with *Montmorency*, and *Melun*,
D'Esling, *De Neile*, and the far-famous *Courcy* ; ———
Names, which were, then, the Praise, and Dread of War !
But, what have I to do, at *Paris*, now ?
I stand upon the Brink of the cold Grave ;
That way my Journey lies ——— to find, I hope,
The King of *Kings*, and move Remembrance, there,
Of all my Woes, long suffer'd, for his sake. ———
You, gen'rous Witnessees of my last Hour,
While I yet live, assist my humble Prayers,
And join the Resignation of my Soul.
Nerestan ! *Chatillon* ! and you ——— fair Mourner !
Whose Tears do Honour to an old Man's Sorrows !
Pity a Father, the unhappiest, sure !
That ever felt the Hand of angry Heaven !
My Eyes, tho' dying, still, can furnish Tears :
Half my long Life they flow'd, and, still, *will* flow !
A Daughter, and three Sons, my Heart's proud Hopes,
Were, all, torn from me, in their tend'rest Years ;
My Friend *Chatillon* knows, and can remember ———

C H A T I L L O N.

Wou'd I were able, to forget your Woe.

LUSIGNAN.

Thou wert a Pris'ner with me in *Cæsarea*,
 And, there, beheldst my Wife, and Two dear Sons
 Perish in Flames——They did not *need* the Grave,
 Their Foes wou'd have *deny'd* 'em!——I beheld it;
Husband! Father! helpless, I beheld it!
 Deny'd the mournful Privilege, to die!
 If ye are Saints in Heaven, as, sure, ye are!
 Look, with an Eye of Pity, on *That* Brother,
That Sister, whom you left!——if I have, yet,
 Or Son, or Daughter:——for, in early Chains,
 Far from their lost, and unassisting Father,
 I heard, that they were sent, with Numbers more,
 To this *Seraglio*; hence to be dispers'd,
 In nameless Remnants, o'er the East, and spread
 Our Christian Miseries, round a faithless World.

CHATILLON.

'Twas true——for, in the Horrors of that Day,
 I snatch'd your Infant Daughter, from her Cradle;
 But, finding ev'ry Hope of Flight was vain,
 Scarce had I sprinkled, from a publick Fountain,
 Those sacred Drops, which wash the Soul from Sin;
 When, from my bleeding Arms, fierce *Saracens*
 Forc'd the lost Innocent, who, smiling lay,
 And, pointed, playful, at the swarthy Spoilers!
 With Her, your youngest, then, your *only* Son,
 Whose little Life had reach'd the fourth, sad Year,
 And, just, giv'n Sense, to *feel* his own Misfortunes,
 Was order'd to this City.——

NERESTAN.

I, too, hither,
 Just, at that fatal Age, from lost *Cæsarea*,
 Came, in that Crowd of undistinguished Christians.—

LUSIGNAN.

You?——came *You* thence?——Alas! who
 knows but you
 Might, heretofore, have seen my Two, poor Children?
 [*Looking up.*] Ha! Madam! that small Ornament you
 wear,
 Its Form a Stranger to this Country's Fashion,

How

How long has it been yours ?

Z A R A.

From my first Breath, Sir, —

Ah ! What ! — you seem surpriz'd ! — Why should
This move you ?

L U S I G N A N.

Wou'd you confide it to my trembling Hands ?

Z A R A.

To what new Wonder, am I now reserv'd ?

Oh ! Sir, what mean you ?

L U S I G N A N.

Providence ! and Heaven !

O, failing Eyes ! deceive ye not my Hope ?

Can this be possible ? — Yes, yes, — 'tis She !

This little Cross — I know it by sure Marks ;

Oh ! take me, Heav'n ! while I can die with Joy —

Z A R A.

O ! do not, Sir, distract me ! — rising Thoughts,
And Hopes, and Fears, o'erwhelm me !

L U S I G N A N.

Tell me, yet,

Has it remain'd, for ever, in your Hands ?

What ! — Both brought Captives, from *Cæsarea*, hither ?

Z A R A.

Both, both —

N E R E S T A N.

Oh, Heaven ! have I, then, found a Father ?

L U S I G N A N.

Their Voice ! their Looks !

The living Images of their dear Mother !

O, Thou ! who, thus, canst blest my Life's last Sand !

Strengthen my Heart, too feeble for this Joy.

Madam ! *Nerestan* ! — Help me, *Chatillon* !

[*Rising.*]

Nerestan ! if thou ought'st to own that Name,

Shines there, upon thy Breast, a noble Scar,

Which, ere *Cæsarea* fell, from a fierce Hand,

Surprising us, by Night, my Child receiv'd ?

N E R E S T A N.

Bless'd Hand ! — I bear it, Sir — the Mark is there !

*The TRAGEDY of ZARA.**LUSIGNAN.*

Merciful Heaven!

NERESTAN.

O, Sir! ——— O, Zara, kneel. ———

ZARA kneeling.

My Father? ——— Oh! ———

LUSIGNAN.

O, my lost Children!

BOTH.

Oh!

*LUSIGNAN.*My Son! my Daughter! Lost, in embracing you,
I wou'd, now, *die*, lest this shou'd prove a Dream.*CHATILLON.*

How touch'd is my glad Heart, to see their Joy!

*LUSIGNAN.*Again, I find you ——— dear, in *Wretchedness*:

O, my brave Son — and, Thou, my nameless Daughter!

Now, dissipate all Doubt, remove all Dread:

Has Heaven, that gives me back my Children--giv'n
'em,

Such, as I lost 'em? --- Come they, Christians, to me?

One weeps, ——— and one declines a conscious Eye!

Your Silence speaks ——— Too well I understand it.

*ZARA.*I cannot, Sir, deceive you ——— *Osman's* Laws
Were mine ——— and *Osman* is *not* Christian. ———*LUSIGNAN.*

Oh! my misguided Child! ——— at that sad Word,
The little Life, yet mine, had left me, quite,
But that my Death might fix thee, lost, for ever.
Full sixty Years, I fought the Christian's Cause,
Saw their doom'd Temple fall, their Power destroy'd;
Twenty, a Captive, in a Dungeon's Depth,
Yet, never, for myself, my Tears sought Heaven;
All, for my Children, rose my fruitless Prayers:
Yet, what avails a Father's wretched Joy?
I have a Daughter gain'd, and *Heaven* an Enemy.
But, 'tis my Guilt, not hers ——— Thy Father's *Prison*
Depriv'd thee of thy Faith --- yet, do not lose it: ———

Re.

Reclaim thy Birth-right —— Think upon the Blood
Of Twenty Christian Kings, that fills thy Veins ;
'Tis Heroes' Blood —— the Blood of Saints and
Martyrs !

What wou'd thy *Mother* feel, to see thee, thus ?
She, and thy murder'd *Brothers* ? —— Think, they
call thee ;

Think, that thou see'st 'em stretch their bloody Arms,
And weep, to win thee, from their Murderers' Bosom,
Ev'n, in the Place, where thou *betray'st* thy God,
He *dy'd*, my Child, to save thee, —— Turn thy
Eyes,

And see, for thou art *near*, his sacred Sepulchre ;
Thou can'st not move a Step, but where he *trod* !
Thou tremblest —— Oh ! admit me to thy *Soul* ;
Kill not thy aged, thy afflicted Father ;
Take not, thus soon, again, the Life thou gav'st him ;
Shame not thy Mother —— nor betray thy God. ——
'Tis past —— Repentance dawns, in thy sweet Eyes ;
I see bright Truth, descending to thy Heart,
And, now, my long-lost Child, is found, for ever.

N E R E S T A N.

O ! doubly blest'd ! a Sister, and a Soul,
To be redeem'd, together !

Z A R A.

O ! my Father !

Dear Author of my Life, inform me, teach me,
What shou'd my Duty do ?

L U S I G N A N.

By one short Word,
To dry up all my Tears, and make Life welcome,
Say, thou art a Christian ——

Z A R A.

Sir —— I *am* a Christian.

L U S I G N A N.

Receive her, gracious Heaven ! and bless her, for is

*Enter Orasmin.**O R A S M I N.*

Madam, the Sultan order'd me, to tell you,
 That he expects, you, instant, quit this Place,
 And bid your last Farewell, to these vile Christians:
 You, captive *Frenchmen*, follow me; ——— for you,
 It is my Task, to answer. ———

C H A T I L L O N.

Still, new Miseries!
 How cautious Man shou'd be, to say, I'm happy!

L U S I G N A N.

These are the Times, when Men of Virtue, prove,
 That, 'tis the Mind, not Blood, insures their Firmness.

Z A R A.

Alas! Sir ——— Oh! ———

L U S I G N A N.

Oh, you! ——— I dare not name you:
 Farewell ——— but, come what may, besure, remember,
 You keep the fatal Secret! ——— for the rest,
 Leave all to Heaven, ——— be faithful, and be blest.

End of the Second Act.

ACT



ACT III. SCENE I.

OSMAN, and ORASMIN.

OSMAN.

O *Rasmin*! this Alarm was false, and groundless;
Lewis, no longer turns his Arms, on *Me*:
 The *French*, grown weary, by a Length of Woes,
 Wish not, as once, to quit their fruitful Plains,
 And famish on *Arabia*'s desert Sands.
 Their Ships, 'tis true, have spread the *Syrian* Seas;
 And *Lewis*, hovering, o'er the Coast of *Cyprus*,
 Alarms the Fears of *Asia*; ——— But, I've learnt,
 That, steering wide, from our unmenac'd Ports,
 He points his Thunder, at th' *Egyptian* shore.
 There, let him war, and waste my Enemies;
 Their mutual Conflict will but fix my Throne. ———
 Release those Christians — I restore their Freedom,
 'Twill please their Master, nor can weaken *Me*:
 Transport 'em, at my Cost, to find their King;
 I wish, to have him know me: Carry thither,
 This *Lusignan*, whom, tell him, I restore,
 Because I cannot fear his Fame in Arms;
 But love him for his Virtue, and his Blood.
 Tell him, my Father having conquer'd, twice,
 Condemn'd him to perpetual Chains; but I
 Have set him free, that I might triumph, more.

ORASMIN.

The Christians gain an Army, in *His* Name.

OSMAN.

I cannot fear a Sound ———

ORASMIN.

But, Sir — should *Lewis* ———

OSMAN.

Tell *Lewis*, and the *World* ——— it shall be so:

Zara

Zara propos'd it, and my Heart approves:
 Thy Statesman's Reason is too dull, for Love!
 Why wilt thou force me, to confess it all?
 'Tho' I, to *Lewis*, send back *Lusignan*,
 I give him but to *Zara*——I have griev'd her;
 And ow'd her the Atonement of this Joy.
Thy false Advices, which, but now, misled
 My Anger, to confine those helpless Christians,
 Gave her a Pain, I feel, for Her, and Me:
 But I talk on, and waste the smiling Moments.
 For one long Hour, I, yet, defer my Nuptials,
 But, 'tis not *lost*, that Hour! 'twill all be Hers!
 She would employ it, in a Conference,
 With that *Nereftan*, whom thou know'st——That
 Christian!

O R A S M I N.

And have you, Sir, indulg'd that vain Desire?

O S M A N.

What mean'st thou? they were Infant Slaves, together:
 Friends should *part*, *kind*, who are to meet no more;
 When *Zara* asks, I will refuse her nothing.
 Restraint was never made for those, we love;
 Down, with these Rigours, of the proud *Seraglio*;
 I hate its Laws——where blind Austerity
 Sinks Virtue, to Necessity.——My Blood
 Disclaims your *Asian* Jealousy;——I hold
 The fierce, free, Plainness, of my *Scythian* Ancestors,
 Their open Confidence, their honest Hate,
 Their Love, unfearing, and their Anger, told.
 Go---the good Christian waits---conduct him to her;
Zara expects thee——What she wills, obey.

[Exit Osman.

O R A S M I N.

Ho! Christian! enter——wait a Moment, here;

Enter Nereftan.

Zara will soon, approach——I go, to find her.
 [Exit Orasmin.
 NE-

NERESTAN.

In what a State, in what a Place, I leave her !
O, Faith! O, Father! O! my poor, lost Sister!
She's here! —————

Enter Zara.

Thank Heaven, it is not, then, unlawful,
To see you, once more, my lovely Sister!
Not *All* so happy! ——— We, who met but now,
Shall never meet *again* ——— for *Lufignan* ———
We shall be Orphans, still, and want a Father.

Z A R A.

Forbid it, Heaven!

NERESTAN.

His last, sad Hour's at Hand. ———

That Flow of Joy, which follow'd our Discovery,
Too strong, and sudden, for his Age's Weakness,
Wasting his Spirits, dry'd the Source of Life,
And Nature yields him up, to Time's Demand:
Shall he not die, in Peace? ——— Oh! let no Doubt
Disturb his parting Moments, with Distrust;
Let me, when I return, to close his Eyes,
Compose his *Mind's* Impatience, too, and tell him,
You are confirm'd a Christian. ———

Z A R A.

Oh! may his Soul enjoy, in Earth, and Heaven,
Eternal Rest! nor let one Thought, one Sigh,
One bold Complaint, of *mine*, recall his Cares!
But, *You* have injur'd me, who, still, can *doubt*. ———
What! am I not your Sister? and shall *You*
Refuse me Credit? *You* suppose me light?
You, who should judge *my* Honour, by your own!
Shall *You* distrust a Truth, I dar'd avow,
And stamp Apostate, on a Sister's Heart!

NERESTAN.

Ah! do not misconceive me! ——— if I err'd;
Affection, not Distrust, misled my Fear;
Your *Will* may be a Christian, yet, *not* You:
There is a sacred *Mark* ——— a *Sign*, of Faith,
A Pledge;

A Pledge, of Promise, that must firm your Claim;
 Wash you from Guilt, and open Heaven, before you:
 Swear, swear, by all the Woes, we All have borne,
 By all the martyr'd Saints, who call you Daughter;
 That you consent, this Day, to seal our Faith,
 By that mysterious Rite, which waits your Call.

Z A R A.

I swear, by Heaven, and all its holy Host,
 Its Saints, its Martyrs, its attesting Angels,
 And the dread Presence of its living Author,
 To have no Faith, but yours;—to die, a Christian?
 Now, tell me, what this mystick Faith requires?

N E R E S T A N.

To hate the Happiness of *Osman's* Throne,
 And love that God, who, thro' this Maze of Woes,
 Has brought us All, unhoping, thus, together;
 For me———I am a Soldier, uninstructed,
 Nor daring to instruct, tho' strong in Faith:
 But I will bring th' Ambassador of Heaven,
 To clear your Views, and lift you to your God:
 Be it your Task to gain Admission for him.———
 But where? from whom?—Oh! thou Immortal Power!
 Whence can we hope it, in this curs'd Seraglio?
 Who is this Slave of *Osman*?———Yes, this Slave!
 Does she not boast the Blood of twenty Kings?
 Is not her Race the same, with That, of *Lewis*?
 Is she not *Lusignan's* unhappy Daughter?
 A Christian? and my Sister?———yet, a Slave!
 A willing Slave!———I dare not speak, more plainly.

Z A R A.

Cruel! go on———Alas! you know not *Me*!
 At once, a Stranger, to my secret Fate,
 My Pains, my Fears, my Wishes, and my Power:
 I am———I will be, Christian———will receive
 This holy Priest, with his mysterious Blessing;
 I will nor do, nor suffer, aught, unworthy
 Myself, my Father, or my Father's Race.———
 But, tell me———nor be tender, on this Point;
 What Punishment your Christian Laws decree,
 For an unhappy Wretch, who, to herself,

The TRAGEDY of ZARA. 41

Unknown, and, all abandon'd, by the World,
Lost, and enslav'd, has, in her Sovereign Master,
Found a Protector, Generous, as Great,
Has touch'd *his* Heart, and giv'n him, all her own?

N E R E S T A N.

The Punishment of such a Slave, *shou'd* be
Death, in *This* World — and Pain, in *That* to come.

Z A R A.

I am that Slave---strike here---and save my Shame:

N E R E S T A N.

Destruction to my Hopes! — Can it be you?

Z A R A.

It is ——— ador'd by *Osman*, I adore him:
This Hour, the Nuptial Rites will make us, *One*.

N E R E S T A N.

What! marry *Osman*! — Let the World grow dark,
That the extinguished Sun may hid thy Shame!
Cou'd it be thus, it were no Crime to kill thee.

Z A R A.

Strike, strike — I love him — yes, by Heav'n I
love him.

N E R E S T A N.

Death is thy Due — but not thy Due from *Me*:
Yet, were the Honour of our House no Bar —
My Father's Fame, and the too gentle Laws
Of that Religion which thou hast disgrac'd —
Did not the God, thou quit'st, hold back my Arm,
Not there — I cou'd not, there; ---- but, by my Soul,
I wou'd rush, desp'rate, to the Sultan's Breast,
And plunge my Sword, in his proud Heart, whodamns
thee!

Oh! Shame! Shame! Shame! at such a Time as this!
When *Lewis*, that Awak'ner of the World,
Beneath the lifted Cross, makes *Egypt* pale,
And draws the Sword of Heaven to spread our Faith!
Now, to submit to see my Sister, doom'd
A Bosom Slave, to him, whose Tyrant Heart
But measures Glory, by the Christian's Woe!
Yes — I will dare acquaint our Father with it; —
Departing *Lusignan* may live, so long,

As

As just, to hear, thy Shame, and die, to 'scape it.

Z A R A.

Stay—my too angry Brother,——stay——perhaps,
Zara has Resolution, great, as Thine;
'Tis cruel——and unkind!——Thy Words are Crimes;
My Weakness but Misfortune! Dost thou suffer?
I suffer more;—Oh! wou'd to Heaven, this Blood
Of Twenty boasted Kings, would stop, at once,
And stagnate in my Heart!——It, then, no more,
Wou'd rush, in boiling Fevers, thro' my Veins,
And ev'ry trembling Drop, be fill'd with *Osman*.
How has he lov'd me! How has he oblig'd me!
I owe Thee to him! What has he not done,
To justify his boundless Pow'r of charming!
For me, he softens the severe Decrees
Of his own Faith;——and is it just, that mine
Shou'd bid me hate him, but because he loves me?
No——I will be a Christian——but, preserve
My Gratitude, as sacred, as my Faith:
If I have Death to fear, for *Osman*'s sake,
It must be, from his Coldness, not his Love.

N E R E S T A N.

I must, at once, condemn, and pity thee;
I cannot point thee out, which Way to go,
But Providence will lend its Light, to guide thee.
That sacred Rite, which thou shalt, now, receive,
Will strengthen, and support, thy feeble Heart,
To live, an Innocent; or die, a Martyr:
Here, then, begin Performance of thy Vow;
Here, in the trembling Horrors of thy Soul,
Promise thy King, thy Father, and thy God,
Not to accomplish these detested Nuptials,
Till, first, the reverend Priest has clear'd your Eyes,
Taught you to know, and giv'n you Claim to, Heaven.
Promise me This——

Z A R A.

So bless me, Heaven! I do.——

Go——hasten the good Priest, I will expect him;
But, first, return——cheer my expiring Father,
Tell him, I am, and will be, All he wishes me:

Tell

The TRAGEDY of ZARA. 43

Tell him, to give Him Life, 'twere Joy, to die.

NERESTAN.

I go — farewell — farewell, unhappy Sister!
[Exit Nerestan.]

ZARA.

I am alone ——— and, now, be just, my Heart!
And tell me, Wilt thou dare betray thy God!
What am I? What am I about to be?
Daughter to *Lusignan*? ——— or Wife to *Osman*?
Am I a Lover, *mōk*? or, most a Christian?
Wou'd *Selima* were come! and, yet, 'tis just,
All Friends shou'd fly her, who forsakes herself:
What shall I do? — What Heart has Strength, to bear
Those double Weights of Duty? — Help me, Heaven!
To thy hard Laws I render up my Soul:
But, Oh! demand it back — for, now, 'tis *Osman's* —

Enter Osman.

OSMAN.

Shine out, appear, be found, my lovely *Zara*!
Impatient Eyes attend — The Rites expect thee;
And my devoted Heart, no longer, brooks
This Distance, from its Soft'ner — All the Lamps
Of Nuptial Love are lighted, and burn pure,
As if they drew their Brightness from thy Blushes;
The holy Mosque is fill'd with fragrant Fumes,
Which emulate the Sweetness of thy Breathing:
My prostrate People, all, confirm my Choice,
And send their Souls to Heaven, in Prayer, for Blessings.
Thy envious *Rivals*, conscious of thy Right,
Approve superior Charms, and join, to praise thee;
The Throne, that waits thee, seems to shine more richly,
As all its Gems, with animated Lustre,
Fear'd to look dim, beneath the Eyes of *Zara*!
Come, my slow Love! the Ceremonies wait thee;
Come, and begin, from this dear Hour, my Triumph.

ZARA.

Oh! what a Wretch am I? O, Grief! Oh, Love!

OS-

44 *The TRAGEDY of ZARA.*

OSMAN.

Come——come——

ZARA.

Where shall I hide my Blushes?

OSMAN.

Blushes?——here, in my Bosom, hide 'em.——

ZARA.

My Lord?

OSMAN.

Nay, *Zara*,——give me thy Hand, and come——

ZARA.

Instruct me, Heaven!

What I shou'd say——Alas! I cannot speak:

OSMAN.

Away——this modest, sweet, reluctant, Trifling,
But doubles my Desires, and thy own Beauties!

ZARA.

Ah, me!

OSMAN.

Nay——but thou should'st not be too cruel.——

ZARA.

I can, no longer, bear it——Oh! my Lord——

OSMAN.

Ha!——what!——whence? how?——

ZARA.

My Lord! my Sovereign!

Heaven knows, this Marriage wou'd have been a Bliss
Above my humble Hopes!——yet, witness Love!

Not from the Grandeur of your Throne, that Bliss,

But, from the Pride of calling *Osman*, Mine.

Wou'd, You had been no Emperor! and I,
Possess'd of Pow'r, and Charms, deserving *You*!

That, slighting *Asia's* Thrones, I might, alone,

Have left a proffer'd World, to follow *You*,

Through Desarts, uninhabited by Men,

And bless'd, with ample Room, for Peace and Love:

But, as it is——these Christians——

OSMAN.

Christians! what!

How start two Images into thy Thoughts,

So

The TRAGEDY of ZARA.

45

So distant — as the Christians, and my Love!

Z A R A.

That good, old Christian, reverend *Lusignan*,
Now, dying, ends his Life, and Woes, together!

O S M A N.

Well! let him die — What has thy Heart to feel,
Thus pressing, and thus tender, from the Death
Of an old, wretched Christian? --- Thank our Prophet,
Thou art no Christian! ——— educated, here,
Thy happy Youth was taught our better Faith:
Sweet, as thy Pity shines, 'tis, now, mistim'd;
What! tho' an aged Suff'rer dies, unhappy,
Why shou'd his foreign Fate disturb our Joys?

Z A R A.

Sir, if you love me, and wou'd have me think,
That I am, truly, dear ———

O S M A N.

Heaven! if I love ———

Z A R A.

Permit me ———

O S M A N.

What? ———

Z A R A.

To desire ———

O S M A N.

Speak out ———

Z A R A.

The Nuptial Rites

May be deferr'd, till ———

O S M A N.

What? ——— is That the Voice

Of Zara?

Z A R A.

Oh! I cannot bear his Frown!

O S M A N.

Of Zara! ———

Z A R A.

It is dreadful to my Heart,

To give you but a seeming Cause, for Anger;
Pardon my Grief ——— Alas! I cannot bear it;

There

46 *The TRAGEDY of ZARA.*

There is a painful Terror, in your Eye,
That pierces to my Soul — hid, from your Sight,
I go, to make a Moment's Truce with Tears,
And gather Force, to speak of my Despair.

[*Exit disorder'd.*]

O S M A N.

I stand, immoveable, like senseless Marble!
Horror had frozen my suspended Tongue:
And an astonish'd Silence robb'd my Will
Of Power, to tell her, that she had shock'd my Soul!
Spoke she to *Me*! sure, I misunderstood her!
Cou'd it be *Me*, she left? — what have I seen?

Enter Orasmin:

Orasmin! what a Change is here! — She's gone,
And I permitted it, I know not how!

O R A S M I N.

Perhaps, you but accuse the charming Fault
Of Innocence, too modest, oft, in Love,

O S M A N.

But why, and whence, those Tears? — those
Looks! that Flight!
That Grief! so strongly stamp'd, on every Feature!
If it has been that *Frenchman*! — what a Thought!
How low, how horrid, a Suspicion, That!
The dreadful Flash, at once, gives Light, and kills me:
My too bold Conscience repell'd my Caution;
An Infidel! — a Slave! — a Heart, like mine,
Reduc'd, to suffer, from so vile a Rival!
But, tell me, did'st thou mark 'em, at their Parting?
Did'st thou observe the Language of their Eyes?
Hide nothing from me — Is my Love betray'd?
Tell me my whole Disgrace: Nay, if thou tremblest,
I hear thy Pity speak, tho' thou art silent.

O R A S M I N.

I tremble, at the Pangs, I see you suffer;
Let not your angry Apprehension urge
Your faithful Slave, to irritate your Anguish;
I did, 'tis true, observe some parting Tears;

But

But, there are Tears, of *Charity*, and *Grief* :
I cannot think, there was a Cause, deserving
This Agony of Passion——

O S M A N.

Why no—— I thank thee——

Orafmin, thou art wise ! It cou'd not be,
That I shou'd stand, expos'd, to such an Insult :
Thou know'st, had *Zara* meant me the Offence,
She wants not Wisdom, to have *hid* it, better ;
How rightly did'st thou judge !—— *Zara* shall know it ;
And thank thy honest Service—— After all, *
Might she not have some Cause for Tears, which I
Claim no Concern in—— but the Grief it gives her ?
What an unlikely Fear—— from a poor Slave !
Who goes, to-morrow, and, no doubt, who wishes,
Nay, who resolves, to see these Climes no more !

O R A S M I N.

Why did you, Sir, against our Country's Custom,
Indulge him with a second Leave to come ?
He said, he shou'd return, once more, to see her.

O S M A N.

Return !—— the Traitor ! He return.—— Dares he
Presume, to press a second Interview ?
Wou'd he be seen, again ?—— He shall be seen ;
But dead ;—— I'll punish the audacious Slave,
To teach the faithless Fair, to feel my Anger :
Be *still*, my Transports ; Violence is blind :
I know, my Heart, at once, is fierce, and weak ;
I feel, that I descend, below myself ;
Zara can, never, justly, be suspected ;
Her Sweetness, was not form'd, to cover Treason :
Yet, *Osman* must not stoop to Woman's Follies.
Their Tears, Complaints, Regrets, and Reconcilements,
With all their light, capricious, Roll of Changes,
Are Arts, too vulgar, to be try'd on *Me*.
It would become, me, better to resume
The Empire of my Will—— Rather than fall
Beneath myself, I must, how dear so'er
It costs me,—— *rise* till I look down, on *Zara* !
Away—— but mark me—— these Seraglio Doors,
Against

48 *The TRAGEDY of ZARA.*

Against all Christians, be they, henceforth shut,
Close, as the dark Retreats of silent Death.
What have I done, just Heav'n ! thy Rage to move,
That thou shoud' st sink me down, so low, to Love ?

End of the Third Act.



ACT IV. SCENE I.

ZARA, SELIMA.

SELIMA.

AH ! Madam, how, at once, I grieve your Fate,
And, how admire your Virtue—Heaven permits,
And Heaven will give you Strength, to bear, Mis-
fortune ;

To break these Chains, so strong, and, yet, so dear.

ZARA.

Oh ! that I could support the fatal Struggle !

SELIMA.

Th' Eternal aids your Weakness, sees your Will ;
Directs your Purpose, and rewards your Sorrows.

ZARA.

Never had Wretch, more Cause, to *hope*, he does.

SELIMA.

What ! tho' you here, no more, behold your Father !
There is a Father to be found, above,
Who can restore That Father to his Daughter.

ZARA.

But, I have planted Pain, in *Osman's* Bosom ;
He loves me, ev'n to Death !——and I reward him,
With Anguish, and Despair :—How base ! how cruel !
But I deserve him not, I shou'd have been
Too happy, and the Hand of Heaven repelled me.

SE-

S E L I M A.

What! will you, then, regret the glorious Loss,
And hazard, thus, a Vict'ry, bravely won?

Z A R A.

Inhuman Victory! ——— thou dost not know,
This Love, so pow'rful, this sole Joy of Life,
This first, best, Hope of earthly Happiness,
Is, yet, less pow'rful, in my Heart, than Heaven!
To him, who made that Heart, I offer it;
There, there I sacrifice my bleeding Passion:
I pour, before him, ev'ry guilty Tear,
I beg him, to efface the fond Impression,
And fill, with his own Image, all my Soul;
But, while I weep, and sigh, repent, and pray,
Rememb'rance brings the Object of my Love,
And ev'ry light Illusion floats before him.
I see, I hear him, and, again, he charms!
Fills my glad Soul, and shines, 'twixt me and Heav'n!
Oh! all ye Royal Ancestors! Oh, Father!
Mother! you Christians, and the Christians' God!
You, who deprive me of this gen'rous Lover!
If you permit me not to live for him,
Let me not live, at all, and I am blest'd:
Let me die, innocent; let his dear Hand
Close the sad Eyes of her, he stoop'd to love,
And I acquit my Fate, and ask no more.
But he forgives me not——regardless, now,
Whether, or how, I live, or, when I die,
He quits me, scorns me——and I, yet live on,
And talk of Death, as distant. ———

S E L I M A.

Ah! despair not,

Trust your Eternal Helper, and be happy.

Z A R A.

Why——what has *Osman* done, that *He*, too, shou'd
not?

Has Heaven, so nobly, form'd his Heart, to *hate* it?
Gen'rous, and Just, Beneficent, and Brave,
Were he but Christian, what can Man be, *more*?
I wish, methinks, this reverend Priest were come;

C

To

50 *The* TRAGEDY of ZARA.

To free me from these Doubts, which shake my Soul;
Yet, know not, why I shou'd not dare to hope,
That Heaven, whose Mercy All confess, and feel,
Will pardon, and approve, th' Alliance wish'd:
Perhaps, it seats me on the Throne of *Syria*,
To tax my Pow'r, for these good Christians' Comfort;
Thou know'st, the mighty *Saladine*, who, first,
Conquer'd this Empire, from my Father's Race,
Who, like my *Osman*, charm'd th' admiring World,
Drew Birth, tho' *Syrian*, from a Christian Mother.

S E L I M A.

What mean you, Madam. Ah! do you not see!—

Z A R A.

Yes, yes — I see it all; I am not blind:
I see, my ~~Country~~, and my Race, condemn me;
I see, that, spite of all, I still, love *Osman*. —
What! if I now, go throw me at his Feet,
And tell him, there, sincerely, what I am?

S E L I M A.

Consider — — That might cost your Brother's Life;
Expose the Christians, and betray you All.

Z A R A.

You do not know the noble Heart of *Osman*;

S E L I M A.

I know him the Protector of a Faith,
Sworn Enemy to ours, — — The more he loves,
The less will he permit you, to profess
Opinions, which he hates: To-night, the Priest,
In private, introduc'd, attends you, here;
You promis'd him Admission — —

Z A R A.

Wou'd I had not!

I promis'd, too, to keep this fatal Secret:
My Father's urg'd Command, requir'd it, twice;
I must obey, all dangerous, as it is:
Compell'd to Silence, *Osman* is enrag'd,
Suspicion follows, and I lose his Love.

Exit

Enter Osman.

O S M A N.

Madam, there was a Time, when my charm'd Heart
Made it a Virtue, to be lost, in Love;
When, without blushing, I indulg'd my Flame;
And ev'ry Day still made you dearer to me.
You taught me, Madam, to believe, my Love
Rewarded, and return'd — nor was that Hope,
Methinks, too bold for Reason: Emperors,
Who chuse to sigh, devoted, at the Feet
Of Beauties, whom the World conceive their Slaves,
Have Fortune's Claim, at least, to sure Success;
But, 'twere profane to think of Pow'r, in Love.
Dear, as my Passion makes you, I decline
Possession of her Charms, whose Heart's Another's;
You will not find me a weak, jealous, Lover,
By coarse Reproaches giving Pain to you,
And shaming my own Greatness — wounded deeply,
Yet shunning, and disdaining, low Complaint,
I come — to tell you —

Z A R A.

Give my trembling Heart

A Moment's Respite —

O S M A N.

That unwilling Coldness,
Is the just Prize of your capricious Lightness;
Your ready Arts may spare the fruitless Pains,
Of colouring Deceit with fair Pretences;
I wou'd not wish to hear your slight Excuses;
I cherish Ignorance, to save my Blushes.
Osman, in ev'ry Trial, shall remember,
That he is Emperor — Whate'er I suffer,
'Tis due to Honour, that I give up You,
And, to my injur'd Bosom, take Despair,
Rather, than shamefully, possess you, sighing,
Convinc'd, those Sighs were never meant for Me. —
Go, Madam — you are free — from *Osman's* Pow'r
Expect no Wrongs, but see his Face no more.

C 2

Z A R A

Z A R A.

At last, 'tis come—the fear'd, the murd'ring Moment
Is come—— and I am curs'd by Earth, and Heaven!

[*Throws herself on the Ground.*]

If it is true, that I am lov'd no more;——
If you——

O S M A N.

It is too true, my *Fame* requires it;
It is too true, that I, unwilling, leave you:
That I, at once, renounce you, and adore.——
Zara!—— you weep! ——

Z A R A.

If I am doom'd to lose you,
If I must wander o'er an empty World,
Unloving, and unlov'd—— Oh! yet, do Justice
To the Afflicted—— do not wrong me, doubly:
Punish me, if 'tis needful to your Peace,
But say not, I deserv'd it—— This, at least,
Believe—— for, not the Greatness of your Soul
Is Truth, more pure, and sacred—— no Regret
Can touch my bleeding Heart, for having lost
The Rank, of Her, you raise to share your Throne:
I know, I never ought to have been there;
My Fate, and my Defects require, I lose you:
But ah! my Heart was never known to *Osman*,
May Heaven, that punishes, for ever hate me,
If I regret the Loss of aught, but *You*.

O S M A N.

Rise—— rise—— This means not Love? [*Raises her.*]

Z A R A.

Strike—— Strike me, Heaven!

O S M A N.

What! is it Love, to force yourself to wound
The Heart, you wish to gladden?—— But I find,]
Lovers, least know *Themselves*, for, I believ'd,
That I had taken back the Power I gave you;
Yet, see!—— you did but weep, and have resum'd me!
Proud, as I am—— I must confess, one Wish
Evades my Power—— the Blessing to forget you.
Zara—— Thy Tears were form'd to teach Disdain,
That

The TRAGEDY of ZARA. 53

That Softness can disarm it. ——— 'Tis decreed,
I must, for ever, love ——— but, from what Cause,
If thy consenting Heart partakes my Fires,
Art thou reluctant to a Blessing, meant me ?
Speak ? Is it Levity ——— or, is it Fear ?
Fear of a Power, that, but for blessing *Thee*,
Had, without Joy, been painful. ——— Is it Artifice ?
Oh ! spare the needless Pains ——— *Art* was not made
For *Zara* ; ——— *Art*, however innocent,
Looks like Deceiving : I abhorr'd it, ever.

Z A R A.

Alas ! I have no Art, not ev'n enough,
To hide this Love, and this Distress, you give me.

O S M A N.

New Riddles ! speak, with Plainness, to my Soul ;
What can'st thou mean ?

Z A R A.

I have no Power to speak it.

O S M A N.

Is it some Secret, dang'rous to my State ?
Is it some Christian Plot, grown ripe, against me ?

Z A R A.

Lives there a Wretch, so vile, as to betray you !
Osman is bless'd, beyond the Reach of Fear ;
Fears, and Misfortunes, threaten only *Zara*.

O S M A N.

Why threaten *Zara* ?

Z A R A.

Permit me, at your Feet,
Thus, trembling, to beseech a Favour from you.

O S M A N.

A Favour ! — Oh ! you guide the Will of *Osman*.

Z A R A.

Ah ! wou'd to Heaven, our Duties were united,
Firm, as our Thoughts and Wishes : — But this Day,
But This one sad, unhappy Day, permit me,
Alone, and far-divided, from your Eye,
To cover my Distress, lest you, too tender,
Should see, and share it with me ——— from To-morrow,
I will not have a Thought, concealed from you.

C 3

O S.

The TRAGEDY of ZARA:

O S M A N.

What strange Disquiet! from what stranger Cause!

Z A R A.

If I am, really, blest'd with *Osman's* Love,
He will not, then, refuse this humble Prayer.

O S M A N.

If it must be, it must. — Be pleas'd — my Will
Takes Purpose, from your Wishes; — And, Consent
Depends, not on my Choice, but your Decree:
Go — but remember, how He loves, who thus,
Finds a Delight in Pain, because you give it.

Z A R A.

It gives me more than Pain, to make you feel it.

O S M A N.

And — can you, *Zara*, leave me?

Z A R A.

Alas! my Lord! [*Exit Zara*,O S M A N. [*Alone.*]

It shou'd be, yet, methinks, too soon to fly me!
Too soon, as yet, to wrong my easy Faith;
The *more* I think, the *less* can I conceive,
What hidden Cause shou'd raise such strange Despair!
Now, when her Hopes have Wings, and ev'ry Wish
Is courted to be lively! — When I love,
And Joy, and Empire, press her to their Bosom;
When, not alone belov'd, but, ev'n, a Lover:
Professing, and accepting; blest'd, and blessing;
To see her Eyes, thro' Tears, shine mystick Love!
'Tis Madness! and I were unworthy Power,
To suffer, longer, the capricious Insult!
Yet, was I blameless? — No — I was too rash;
I have felt Jealousy, and spoke it, to her;
I have distrust'd her — and, still, she loves:
Gen'rous Atonement, That! and 'tis my Duty
To expiate, by a Length of soft Indulgence,
The Transports of a Rage, which, still, was Love.
Henceforth, I, never, will suspect her false;
Nature's plain Power of Charming dwells about her,
And Innocence gives Force to ev'ry Word:
I owe full Confidence to All, she looks,

for

For, in her Eye, shines Truth, and ev'ry Beam
 Shows Confirmation round her:—I remark'd,
 Ev'n, while she wept, her Soul, a thousand Times,
 Sprung to her Lips, and long'd to leap to mine,
 With honest, ardent, Utt'rance of her Love.—
 Who can possess a Heart, so low, so base,
 To look such Tendernefs, and, yet, have none?

Enter Melidor, with Orasmin.

M E L I D O R.

This Letter, great Disposer of the World!
 Address'd to *Zara*, and, in private, brought,
 Your faithful Guards, this Moment, intercepted,
 And, humbly, offer to your Sovereign Eye.

O S M A N.

Come nearer; give it me.—To *Zara*!—Rise!
 Bring it, with Speed—Shame on your flatt'ring Di-
 stance— [*Advancing and snatching the Letter.*
 Be honest—and approach me, like a Subject,
 Who serves the Prince, yet, not forgets the Man.

M E L I D O R.

One of the Christian Slaves, whom, late, your Bounty
 Releas'd from Bondage, fought, with heedful Guile,
 Unnotic'd, to deliver it—discover'd,
 He waits, in Chains, his Doom, from your Decree.

O S M A N.

Leave me—I tremble, as if something fatal,
 Were meant me, from this Letter—should I read it?

O R A S M I N.

Who knows, but it contains some happy Truth,
 That may remove all Doubts, and calm your Heart?

O S M A N.

Be it, as 'twill—it *shall* be read—my Hands
 Have Apprehension, that outreaches mine!
 Why shou'd they tremble, thus?—'Tis done—and now

[*Opens the Letter.*

Fate, be thy Call obey'd—*Orasmin*, mark—

56 *The TRAGEDY of ZARA:*

“ There is a secret Passage, towards the Mosque,
 “ That Way, you might escape ; and, unperceiv’d,
 “ Fly your Observers, and fulfill our Hope ;
 “ Despise the Danger, and depend on me,
 “ Who wait you, but, to die, if you deceive.”
 Hell ! Tortures ! Death ! and Woman ! — What ?

Orafin ?

Are we awake ? Heard’st thou ? Can this be *Zara* ?

O R A S M I N.

Would, I had lost all Sense — for, what I heard,
 Has cover’d my afflicted Heart with Horror !

O S M A N.

Thou see’st how I am treated ?

O R A S M I N.

Monstrous Treason !

To an Affront, like This, you cannot — must not —
 Remain, insensible — You, who, but now,
 From the most slight Suspicion, felt such Pain,
 Must, in the Horror of so black a Guilt,
 Find an effectual Cure, and banish Love.

O S M A N.

Seek her, this Instant — go — *Orafin*, fly —
 Shew her this Letter — bid her read, and tremble:
 Then in the rising Horrors of her Guilt,
 Stab her unfaithful Breast — and let her die. —
 Say, while thou strik’st — Stay, stay —
 return and pity me :

I will think, first, a Moment — Let that Christian
 Be, strait, confronted with her — Stay — I will,
 I will, — I know not what ; — Wou’d, I were dead !
 Wou’d, I had dy’d, unconscious of this Shame !

O R A S M I N.

Never did Prince receive so bold a Wrong.

O S M A N.

See ! here, detected, this infernal Secret
 This Fountain of her Tears, which my weak Heart
 Mistook, for Marks of Tendernefs, and Pain !
 Why ! what a Reach has Woman, to deceive !
 Under how fine a Veil, of Grief, and Fear,
 Did she propose Retirement, till To-morrow ?

And

And I, blind Dotard ! gave the Fool's Consent,
Sooth'd her, and suffer'd her to go !—— She parted,
Dissolv'd in Tears ; and parted to betray me !

O R A S M I N.

Reflection serves but to confirm her Guilt :
At length, resume yourself ; awaken Thought ;
Assert your Greatness ; and resolve, like *Ozman*.

O S M A N.

Nerestan, too !—— Was this the boasted Honour
Of that proud Christian ? whom *Jerusalem*
Grew loud, in Praising ! whose half-envy'd Virtue
I wonder'd at, myself ! and felt Disdain,
To be but, equal, to a Christian's Greatness !
And does he thank me thus ?—— base Infidel !
Honest, pretending, pious, *praying*, Villain !
Yet, *Zara* is, a thousand times, more base,
More Hypocrite, than He !—— a Slave ! a Wretch !
So low, so lost, that, ev'n the vilest Labours,
In which he lay, condemn'd, could never sink him,
Beneath his Native Infamy !—— Did she not know,
What I have done, what suffer'd —— for Her sake ?

O R A S M I N.

Con'd you, my gracious Lord, forgive my Zeal,
You wou'd——

O S M A N.

I know it —— thou art right —— I'll see her——
I'll tax her, in thy Presence ; — I'll upbraid her——
I'll let her *learn*——go——find, and bring her, to me.

O R A S M I N.

Alas ! my Lord, disorder'd as you are,
What can you wish to say ?

O S M A N.

I know not, now :——

But I resolve to see her —— lest she think,
Her Falshood has, perhaps, the Power to grieve me.

O R A S M I N.

Believe me, Sir, your Threatnings, your Complaints,
What will they All produce, but *Zara's* Tears,
To quench this fancy'd Anger ! your lost Heart,
Seduc'd, against itself, will search out Reasons,
To justify the Guilt, which gives it Pain :

58. *The TRAGEDY of ZARA:*

Rather conceal, from *Zara*, this Discovery;
And let some trusty Slave convey the Letter,
Re-clos'd, to her own Hand——then, shall you learn,
Spite of her Frauds, Disguise, and Artifice,
The Firmness, or Abasement, of her Soul.

O S M A N.

Thy Counsel charms me! We'll about it, now;
'Twill be some Recompence, at least, to see
Her Blushes, when detected.——

O R A S M I N.

Oh! my Lord,

I doubt you, in the Trial——for, your Heart——

O S M A N.

Distrust me not——my Love, indeed, is weak,
But, Honour, and Disdain, more strong than *Zara*:
Here, take this fatal Letter——chuse a Slave,
Whom, yet, she never saw, and who retains
His try'd Fidelity——Dispatch——be gone——

[*Exit Orasmin.*]

Now, whither shall I turn my Eyes, and Steps,
The surest Way, to shun her; and give Time
For this discovering Trial?—Heav'n! she's here!

Enter Zara.

So, Madam! Fortune will befriend my Cause,
And free me from your Fetters:——You are met!
Most aptly, to dispell a new-ris'n Doubt,
That claims the finest of your Arts, to gloss it.
Unhappy, each, by other, it is Time,
To end our mutual Pain, that Both may rest:
You want not Generosity, but Love:
My Pride forgotten, my obtruded Throne,
My Favours, Cares, Respect, and Tendernefs,
Touching your Gratitude, provok'd Regard;
Till, by a Length of Benefits, besieg'd,
Your Heart submitted, and you thought, 'twas Love;
But you deceiv'd Yourself, and injur'd me.
There is, I'm told, an Object more deserving
Your Love, than *Osman*——I would know his Name?

Be just, nor trifle with my Anger : Tell me,
Now, while expiring Pity struggles, faint ;
While I have yet, perhaps, the Power to pardon :
Give up the bold Invader of my Claim,
And let him die, to save thee.—Thou art known :
Think, and resolve—While I yet speak, renounce him ;
While yet the Thunder rolls, suspended, stop it ;
Let thy Voice charm me, and recall my Soul,
That turns, averse, and dwells no more on *Zara*.

Z A R A.

Can it be *Osman*, speaks ? and speaks to *Zara* ?
Learn, Cruel ! learn, that this afflicted Heart,
This Heart which Heaven delights to prove, by Tor-
tures,

Did it not love, has Pride, and Pow'r to shun you :
Alas ! you will not know me ! What have I
To fear, but that unhappy Love, you question ?
That Love, which, only, cou'd outweigh the Shame ;
I feel, while I descend, to weep my Wrongs :
I know not, whether Heaven, that frowns upon me,
Has destin'd my unhappy Days, for Yours ;
But, be my Fate, or bless'd, or curs'd, I swear,
By Honour, dearer ev'n than Life, or Love,
Cou'd *Zara* be but Mistress of Herself,
She wou'd, with cold Regard, look down on Kings,
And, You alone excepted, fly 'em all :
Wou'd you learn more, and open all my Heart ?
Know then, that, spite of this renew'd Injustice,
I do not—cannot——wish to love you less :
That, long before you look'd so low, as *Zara*,
She gave her Heart to *Osman*——Yours, before
Your Benefits had brought her, or your Eye
Had thrown Distinction round her ; never had,
Nor ever will acknowledge, other Lover.——
And, to this sacred Truth, attesting Heaven !
I call thy dreadful Notice ! If my Heart
Deserves Reproach, 'tis for, but not from, *Osman*.

O S M A N.

What ! does she, yet, presume to swear Sincerity !
Oh ! Boldness of unblushing Perjury !

60 *The TRAGEDY of ZARA:*

Had I not seen, had I not read, such Proof,
Of her light Falshood, as extinguish'd Doubt;
I cou'd not be a Man, and not believe her.

Z A R A.

Alas! my Lord, what cruel Fears have seiz'd you?
What harsh, mysterious Words were those, I heard?

O S M A N.

What Fears should *Osman* feel, since *Zara* loves him?

Z A R A.

I cannot live, and answer to your Voice,
In that reproachful Tone!——Your angry Eye
Trembles with Fury, while you talk of Love!

O S M A N.

Since *Zara* LOVES him!

Z A R A.

Is it possible,

Osman should disbelieve it?——Again, again
Your late repented Violence returns;
Alas! what killing Frowns you dart against me!
Can it be kind? Can it be just, to doubt me?

O S M A N.

No——I can doubt no longer——You may retire.
[*Exit Zara.*]

Re-enter Orasmin.

Orasmin! she's perfidious, even beyond
Her Sex's undiscover'd Power of Seeming:
She's at the topmast Point of shameless Artifice:
An Empress, at deceiving!——Soft, and easy,
Destroying, like a Plague, in calm Tranquility:
She's innocent, she swears——So is the Fire;
It *shines*, in harmless Distance, bright, and pleasing,
Consuming nothing, till it, first embraces.——
Say? Hast thou chos'n a Slave?——Is he instructed?
Haste, to detect her Vileness, and my Wrongs.

O R A S M I N.

Punctual, I have obey'd your whole Command;
But, have you arm'd, my Lord, your injur'd Heart,
With Coldness, and Indiff'rence? Can you hear,
All painless, and unmov'd, the False One's Shame?

O S

The TRAGEDY of ZARA. 61

O S M A N.

Oraşmin ! I adore her, more than ever !

O R A S M I N.

My Lord ! my Emperor ! forbid it, Heav'n !

O S M A N.

I have discern'd a Gleam of distant Hope ;
This hateful Christian, the light Growth of *France* ;
Proud, young, vain, amorous, conceited, rash,
Has misconceiv'd some charitable Glance,
And judg'd it Love, in *Zara* : ——— He, alone,
Then, has offended me. ——— Is it her Fault,
If Those, she charms, are indiscreet and daring ?
Zara, perhaps, expected not this Letter ;
And I, with Rashness, groundless, as its Writer's,
Took Fire, at my own Fancy, and have wrong'd her.
Now, hear me, with Attention ——— Soon as Night
Has thrown her welcome Shadows, o'er the Palace ;
When this *Nereştan*, this ungrateful Christian,
Shall lurk, in Expectation, near our Walls,
Be watchful, that our Guards surprize, and seize him ;
Then, bound in Fetters, and o'erwhelm'd with Shame,
Conduct the daring Traitor, to my Presence ;
But, above all, be sure you hurt not *Zara* :
Mindful, to what supreme Excess, I love.
I feel, I must confess, a kind of Shame,
And blush, at my own Tenderneſs ; ——— but, Faith,
Howe'er it seems deceiv'd, were weak, as I am,
Cou'd it admit Distrust, to blot its Face,
And give Appearance Way, till Proof takes Place.

End of the Fourth Act.

A C T

62 *The TRAGEDY of ZARA.*



ACT V. SCENE I.

ZARA, SELIMA.

ZARA.

SOOTH me, no longer, with this vain Desire;
To a Recluse, like *me*, *who* dares, henceforth,
Presume Admission! ——— The Seraglio's *shut* ———
Barr'd, and unpassable ——— as *Death*, to *Time*!
My Brother ne'er must hope to see me, more: ———
How now! What unknown Slave accosts us, here!

Enter Melidor.

MELIDOR.

This Letter, trusted to my Hands, receive,
In secret Witness, I am, wholly, yours.

[Zara reads the Letter.]

SELIMA. [Aside.]

Thou, everlasting Ruler of the World!
Shed thy wish'd Mercy on our hopeless Tears;
Redeem us from the Hands of hated Infidels,
And save my Princess from the Breast of *Osman*.

ZARA.

I wish, my Friend, the Comfort of your Counsel.

SELIMA.

Retire—— you shall be call'd—— wait near—— Go,
leave us: *[Exit Melidor.]*

ZARA.

Read this—and tell me, what I ought to answer?
For I wou'd, gladly, hear my Brother's Voice.

SELIMA.

Say rather, you wou'd hear the Voice of Heav'n.
'Tis not your Brother, calls you, but your God.

Ed.

The TRAGEDY of ZARA.

63

Z A R A.

I know it, nor resist his awful Will ;
Thou know'st, that I have bound my Soul, by Oath ;
But can I ——— ought I ——— to engage myself,
My Brother, and the Christians in this Danger ?

S E L I M A.

'Tis not their Danger, that alarms your Fear ;
Your Love speaks loudest, to your shrinking Soul ;
I know your Heart, of Strength, to hazard All,
But, it has let in Traitors, who surrender,
On poor Pretence of Safety : ——— Learn, at least,
To understand, the Weakness, that deceives you :
You tremble, to offend your haughty Lover,
Whom Wrongs, and Outrage, but endear the more ;
Yes, ——— you are blind to *Osman's* cruel Nature,
That *Tartar's* Fierceness, that obscures his Bounties ;
This Tyger, savage, in his Tenderness,
Courts, with Contempt, and threatens amid Softness ;
Yet, cannot your neglected Heart efface
His fated, fix'd Impression !

Z A R A.

What Reproach

Can I, with Justice, make him ? ——— I, indeed,
Have given Him just Cause to hate me ! ———
Was not his Throne, Was not his Temple, ready ?
Did he not court his Slave, to be a Queen ?
And have not I declin'd it ? ——— I, who ought
To tremble, conscious of affronted Power !
Have not I triumph'd o'er his Pride, and Love ?
Seen him submit his own high Will, to mine ?
And sacrifice his Wishes, to my Weakness ?

S E L I M A.

Talk we, no more, of this unhappy Passion ;
What Resolution will your Virtue take ?

Z A R A.

All things combine, to sink me to Despair :
From the Seraglio, Death, alone, will free me.
I long to see the Christian's happy Climes ;
Yet, in the Moment, while I form that Prayer,
I sigh a secret Wish, to languish, here ;

How

64 *The TRAGEDY of ZARA:*

How sad a State is mine! my restless Soul
 All ign'rant, what to do, or what to wish?
 My only *Perfect* Sense is, That of Pain.
 O, Guardian Heav'n! protect my Brother's Life;
 For I will meet him, and fulfil his Prayer.
 Then, when, from *Solyra's* unfriendly Walls,
 His Absence shall unbind his Sister's Tongue,
Osman shall learn the Secret of my Birth,
 My Faith unshaken and my deathless Love;
 He will approve my Choice, and pity me.
 I'll send my Brother Word, he may expect me;
 Call in the faithful Slave ——— God of my Fathers!

[*Exit Selima.*]

Let thy Hand save me, and thy Will direct.

Enter Selima and Melidor.

Go ——— tell the Christian, who intrusted thee,
 That *Zara's* Heart is fix'd, nor shrinks at Danger;
 And, that my faithful Friend will, at the Hour,
 Expect, and introduce him, to his Wish.

Away ——— the Sultan comes; he must not find us.

[*Exeunt Zara and Selima.*]

Enter Osman, and Orasmin.

O S M A N.

Swifter, ye Hours, move on; my Fury glows
 Impatient, and wou'd push the Wheels of Time:—
 How now! what Message dost thou bring? Speak boldly
 What Answer gave she, to the Letter, sent her?

M E L I D O R.

She blush'd, and trembled, and grew pale, and paus'd;
 Then blush'd, and read it; and, again, grew pale;
 And wept, and smil'd, and doubted, and resolv'd:
 For, after all this Race of vary'd Passions,
 When she had sent me out, and call'd me back,
 Tell him (she cried) who has intrusted thee,
 That *Zara's* Heart is fix'd, nor shrinks at Danger;
 And, that my faithful Friend will, at the Hour,
 Expect, and introduce him, to his Wish.

O S M A N.

Enough—be gone----I have no Ear for more.—

[*To the Slave.*
Leave]

The TRAGEDY of ZARA. 65

Leave me, Thou too *Oraſmin*.——Leave me Life,
[*To Oraſmin.*

For, ev'ry Mortal Aſpect moves my Hate :
Leave me, to my Diſtraction—— I grow mad,
And cannot bear the Viſage of a Friend.
Leave me, to Rage, Deſpair, and Shame, and Wrongs,
Leave me, to ſeek Myſelf, —— and ſhun Mankind.

[*Alone.*]

Who am I ?— Heav'n ! Who am I ? What reſolve I ?
Zara ! Nereſſan ! Sound thoſe Words, like Names
Decreed to join !—— Why pauſe I ?—Periſh *Zara*—
Wou'd, I cou'd tear her Image from my Heart :——
'Twere happier, not to live, at all, than live
Her Scorn, the Sport of an ungrateful False One !
And ſink the Sovereign, in a Woman's Property.

Re-enter Oraſmin.

Oraſmin !——Friend ! return——I cannot bear
This Abſence, from thy Reaſon : 'Twas unkind,
'Twas cruel, to obey me, thus diſtreſs'd,
And wanting Pow'r to *think*, when I had loſt thee.
How goes the Hour ? Has he appear'd ? This Rival !
Periſh the ſhameful Sound——This Villain Chriſtian !
Has he appear'd, below ?

O R A S M I N.

Silent, and dark,
Th' unbreathing World is hush'd, as if it heard,
And liſten'd to your Sorrows.

O S M A N.

O, treach'rous Night
Thou lend'ſt thy ready Veil, to ev'ry Treason,
And teeming Miſchiefs thrive, beneath thy Shade.
Oraſmin ! Prophet ! Reaſon ! Truth ! and Love !
After ſuch length of Benefits, to wrong me !
How have I over-rated, how miſtaken,
The Merit of her Beauty !——Did I not
Forget, I was a Monarch ? Did I remember,
That *Zara* was a Slave ?——I gave up All ;
Gave up Tranquility, Diſtinction, Pride,
And ſell, the ſhameful Victim of my Love !

OR-

66 *The TRAGEDY of ZARA:*

O R A S M I N.

Sir! Sovereign! Sultan! my Imperial Master!
Reflect on your own Greatness, and disdain
The distant Provocation.

O S M A N.

Heard'st thou nothing?

O R A S M I N.

My Lord?

O S M A N.

A Noise, like dying Groans?

O R A S M I N.

I listen, but can hear nothing.

O S M A N.

Again! ——— look out ——— he comes. ———

O R A S M I N.

Nor Tread of Mortal Foot, ——— nor Voice, I hear;
The still Seraglio lies, profoundly plung'd,
In Death-like Silence! nothing stirs. ——— The Air
Is soft, as Infant's Sleep, no breathing Wind
Steals, thro' the Shadows, to awaken Night.

O S M A N.

Horrors, a thousand times more dark, than these,
Benight my suff'ring Soul ——— Thou dost not know,
To what Excess of Tenderness, I lov'd her.
I knew no Happiness, but what she gave me,
Nor cou'd have felt a Mis'ry, but for her!
Pity this Weakness ——— mine are Tears, *Orafmin!*
That fall not oft, nor lightly: ———

O R A S M I N.

Tears! ——— Oh, Heaven!

O S M A N.

The first, which, ever, yet, unmann'd my Eyes!
O! pity *Zara* ——— pity *Me* ——— *Orafmin*,
These but forerun the Tears of destin'd Blood.

O R A S M I N.

Oh, my unhappy Lord! — I tremble for You. —

O S M A N.

Do ——— tremble at my Suff'rings, at my Love;
At my Revenge, too, tremble ——— for, 'tis due,
And will not be deluded.

The TRAGEDY of ZARA.

67

O R A S M I N.

Hark! I hear

The Steps of Men along the neighbouring Wall! —

O S M A N.

Fly——seize him----'tis *Nerestan*! wait no Chains,
But, drag him down, to my impatient Eye. *[Exit Oras.]*

Enter Zara and Selima in the Dark.

Z A R A.

Where art thou, *Selima*? Give me thy Hand;
It is so dark, I tremble, as I step,
With Fears, and Startings, never felt, 'till now!

O S M A N.

Damnation! 'tis her Voice! the well-known Sound,
That has, so often charm'd me into Baseness!

Oh! the perfidious Hypocrite! ——— she goes,
To meet th' inviting Infidel! ——— now, now,

[Drawing a Dagger.]

Revenge, stand firm, and intercept his Wishes: ———
Revenge! on whom?—no matter—Earth, and Heaven;
Wou'd blush, shou'd I forbear:—Now,---Zara now;

[Drops the Dagger.]

I must not—— cannot strike, the starting Steel,
Unwilling, flies my Hand, and shuns to wound her.

Z A R A.

This is the private Path—— come nearer, lead me---
Are we not notic'd, think'st thou?

S E L I M A.

Fear not, Madam;

It cannot, now, be long, e're we shall meet him.

O S M A N.

That Word has giv'n me, back, my ebbing Rage;

[Recovers the Dagger.]

Z A R A.

I walk in Terror, and my Heart forbodes:
Who's there?---*Nerestan*! Is it you?--Oh! Welcome--

O S M A N. *[Stabbing her.]*

This to thy Heart---'Tis not the Traitor, meets thee,
'Tis the Betray'd—— who writes it, in thy Blood.

Z A R A.

O, gracious Heaven! receive my parting Soul. *[Dies.]*

O S.

O S M A N.

Soul?—then Revenge has reach'd thee---I will, now,
 Haste, from this fatal Place——I cannot leave her!
 Whom did I strike? Was This the Act of Love?
 Swallow me, Earth!-----She's silent — Zara's dead!
 And should I live, to see returning Day,
 'Twill shew me but her Blood!---shew me, left joyless,
 In a wide, empty, World, with nothing round me,
 But Penitence, and Pain——and, yet, 'twas just:--
 Hark!-----Destiny has sent her Lover to me,
 To fill my Vengeance, and restore my Joy.

Enter Orasmin, with Nerestan.

Approach, thou Wretch! thou more than curs'd!
 come near-----

Thou! who, in Gratitude for Freedom gain'd,
 Hast giv'n Me Miseries, beyond thy own!
 Thou Heart of Heroe, with a Traitor's Soul!
 Go ——reap thy due Reward, prepare to suffer,
 Whate'er inventive Malice can inflict,
 To make thee *feel* thy Death, and perish, flow.
 Are my Commands obey'd?

O R A S M I N.

All is prepar'd:

O S M A N.

Thy wanton Eyes look round, in Search of Her,
 Whose Love, descending to a Slave, like Thee,
 From my dishonour'd Hand, receiv'd her Doom?
 See! where she lies-----

N E R E S T A N.

O, fatal, rash, Mistake!

O S M A N.

Dost thou behold her, Slave?

N E R E S T A N.

Unhappy Sister!

O S M A N.

Sister!-----Did'st thou say Sister? if thou didst,
 Bless me, with Deafness, Heaven!

N E R E S T A N.

Tyrant! I did-----

She *was* my Sister-----All, that, now, is left thee,
 Dispatch

The TRAGEDY of ZARA: 69

Dispatch — From my distracted Heart, drain next
The Remnant of the Royal, Christian, Blood.

Old *Lusignan*, expiring, in my Arms,
Sent his too wretched Son, with his last Blessing,
To his, now, murder'd Daughter !

Wou'd, I had seen the bleeding Innocent !
I wou'd have liv'd, to speak to her, in Death ;
Wou'd have awaken'd, in her languid Heart,
A livelier Sense of her abandon'd God :
That God, who, left by Her, forsook Her, too,
And gave the poor, lost, Suff'rer, to thy Rage.

O S M A N.

Thy Sister ? — *Lusignan* her Father — *Selima* !
Can this be true ? — and have I wrong'd thee, *Zara* ?

S E L I M A.

Thy Love was all the Cloud, 'twixt her and Heav'n.

O S M A N.

Be dumb — for thou art base, to add Distraction,
To my already, more, than bleeding, Heart :
And was thy Love sincere ? --- What, then, remains ?

N E R E S T A N.

Why shou'd a Tyrant hesitate, on Murder !
There, now, remains, but mine, of all the Blood,
Which, thro' thy Father's cruel Reign, and Thine,
Has, never, ceas'd to stream, on *Syria*'s Sands ;
Restore a Wretch to his unhappy Race ;
Nor, hope, that Torments, after such a Scene,
Can force one feeble Groan, to feast thy Anger.
I waste my fruitless Words, in empty Air ;
The Tyrant, o'er the bleeding Wound, he made,
Hangs his unmoving Eye, and heeds not me.

O S M A N.

O, *Zara* ! —

O R A S M I N.

Alas ! my Lord, return — whither would Grief
Transport your gen'rous Heart ? - This Christian Dog -

O S M A N.

Take off his Fetters, and observe my Will :
To Him, and all his Friends, give instant Liberty :
Pour a Profusion, of the richest Gifts,

On

70 *The TRAGEDY of ZARA.*

On these unhappy Christians ; and when heap'd,
With vary'd Benefits, and charg'd, with Riches,
Give 'em safe Conduct, to the nearest Port.

O R A S M I N.

But, Sir! —————

O S M A N.

Reply not but obey. —————

Fly ——— nor dispute thy Master's last Command,
Thy Prince, who orders ——— and thy Friend, who
loves thee!

Go—lose no Time—farewel ——— be gone---and thou!
Unhappy Warrior! ——— yet, less lost, than I! ———
Haste, from our bloody Land ——— and, to thy own,
Convey this poor, pale, Object of my Rage:
Thy King, and all his Christians, when they hear
Thy Miseries, shall mourn 'em, with their Tears;
But, if thou tell'st 'em mine, and tell'st 'em, truly,
They, who shall hate my Crime, shall pity *Me*.
Take, too, this Poniard, with thee, which my Hand
Has stain'd with Blood, far dearer, than my own;
Tell 'em—with This, I murder'd, Her, I lov'd;
The noblest, and most virtuous, among Women!
The Soul of Innocence, and Pride of Truth!
Tell 'em I laid my Empire at her Feet;
Tell 'em, I plung'd my Dagger in her Blood;
Tell 'em, I so ador'd ——— and, thus, reveng'd her,

[*Stabs himself.*]

Rev'rence this Heroe---and conduct him, safe. [*Dis.*]

N E R E S T A N.

Direct me, Great Inspirer of the Soul!
How I shou'd act, how judge, in this Distress?
Amazing Grandeur! and detested Rage!
Ev'n I, amidst my Tears, admire this Foe,
And mourn his Death, who liv'd, to give me Woe.

End of the Fifth Act.



EPI.

EPILOGUE.

Spoke by Mrs. CLIVE.

HERE, take a Surfeit, Sirs, of being Jealous;
And shun the Pains, that plague those Turkish Fellows:
Where Love and DEATH join Hands, their Darts confounding,

Save us, good Heav'n! from this new Way of WOUNDING!
Curs'd Climate!---where, to CARDS, a lone-left Woman
Has only, One of her Black Guards, to summon!

Sighs, and sits mope'd, with her tame Beast to gaze at:
And, that cold Treat, is all the Game she plays at!

For---shou'd she once, some Abler Hand be trying,
Poignard's the Word!---and, the first Deal is---DYING!

'Slife! shou'd the bloody Whim get Ground, in Britain,
Where Woman's FREEDOM has such Heights to sit on;
Daggers, PROVOK'D, wou'd bring on DESOLATION:
And, murder'd Belles un-people half the Nation!

Fain wou'd I help this Play, to move Compassion;
And live, to hunt SUSPICION out of Fashion.-----

FOUR Motives, strongly recommend, to Lovers,
Hate of this Weakness, that our Scene discovers:

First then---A Woman WILL, or WON'T---depend on't:
If she will do't, she WILL:---and there's an End on't.
But, if she won't,---since safe and sound your Trust is,
Fear is AFFRONT: and Jealousy INJUSTICE.

Next,---He who bids his Dear do, what she pleases,
Blunts Wedlock's Edge, and, all its Torture eases:
For---not to feel your Suff'rings, is the same,
As not to suffer:---All the Diff'rence---Name.

Thirdly---The Jealous Husband wrongs his Honour;
No Wife goes Lame, without some Hurt upon her:
And, the malicious World will still be guessing.
Who, oft Dines out, dislikes her own Cook's Dressing.

Fourthly, and lastly---to conclude my Lecture,
If you wou'd FIX th' inconstant Wife---RESPECT her.
She who perceives her Virtues OVER-RATED,
Will fear to have th' Account more justly stated:
And, bor'r'wing, from her Pride, the Good Wife's SEEMING,
Grow REALLY SUCH---to Merit your Esteeming.

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